

HENRY WILLOUGHBY.

A

NOVEL.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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HENRY WILLOUGHBY.

CHAPTER I.

“MY name is Launcey. I was born at an old manor-house in one of the northern counties of England. My father was one of those men who come under the denomination of country squires, that is, he had a landed estate worth about five hundred pounds a-year ; was very proud, and very illiterate. During the whole course of his life he never travelled twenty miles from his own house, except once, he followed a fox almost fifty miles, and had the supreme honour to be in at the

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death, after he had killed two horses outright, and lamed a third.

“ The bottle and the chase were his chief delights ; and to be a proficient in the mysteries of either, was a sure recommendation to his favour and protection. Rough and uncultivated in his manners, he regarded the liberal arts and sciences as pernicious acquirements, and in the highest degree destructive to religion and morality: and, had he had the power, he would have been a most virulent and implacable persecutor of philosophy and its adherents. In religion, he was a zealous and bigotted admirer of the church of England, though he no more understood its tenets, than the lama of Thibet, or the khan of Tartary : and often, over his bottle, when his fervour for our church was inflamed by copious draughts of wine,
and

and the pious discourse of the curate of the parish, he would declare, that nothing on this side the grave would give him greater satisfaction than to hear, that the king had declared war against all the papists, presbyterians, and dissenters in England. This was his constant prayer when drunk, and the probability of its coming to pass, the unvaried theme of his conversation when he was sober, and unoccupied by his horses and hounds. My mother was the very counterpart of my father, with this difference, that her understanding was weak in proportion to her sex, and she refrained from the pleasures of the bottle and chase. She was one of those inoffensive beings, who think they fulfil every duty of life, while they do no harm to their fellow-creatures.

“ I am afraid this account of my parents is tedious and disgusting to you ; but as their faults have been the source of my misery, it is only justice that a relation of them should accompany my narrative. The errors and misfortunes of my life have originated in those who gave me being ; yet the stigma is fixed upon me, and their failings are transformed into virtues, and their faults into perfection. In relating them, I do an act of justice to myself ; and, while I confine my narrative within the strict limits of truth, surely no one can blame the resentment my injuries have engendered, or accuse me of malevolence for retaining that resentment, so long after the causes of it have ceased to exist.

“ I was the youngest of three sons ; and, as is commonly the case with the last born,

born, I was a favourite both with my father and mother. At an early period I was initiated into all the mysteries of the chase; and before I could read a single page in a book without spelling some of the words, or write a dozen lines without making a dozen blunders, I was able to gallop twenty miles after a fox, and finish two bottles of port when the chase was concluded. Endowed with these qualifications, and a frame of body uncommonly vigorous and athletic, I was the wonder and admiration of all the neighbouring squires, and might have long continued to enjoy the favour of my parents.—But the fates have ordered it otherwise; and why should I repine at their irrevocable laws? Yes! I may submit to stern necessity, but while I exist, while I retain my senses, and a remem-

brance of what is past, I will execrate the causes of my misfortunes, and I will repay hatred with hate, and malice with contempt. Sooner shall the proud Peak of Teneriff be levelled with the surface of the ocean, or the plains of Hindostan be exalted into Pyrenean mountains; sooner shall dissimulation and hypocrisy be delivered from the professor of religion, and poverty and want from the man of worth, than I will forget or forgive the injuries I have sustained, and the hardships I have undergone. I will cherish the recollection of them in my heart, they shall accumulate with my years, and the hoary hand of time shall not blot them from my memory! The bane of my existence shall be converted into my delight; my sorrows shall be joys, and my affliction prosperity!"

As

As he uttered these words, his eyes became wild and distracted; his mind seemed to labour under some unutterable distress, and the perturbation of his countenance expressed his inward anguish. I have before said that a species of pensive melancholy was imprinted upon his countenance, but at this time it assumed an air of horror and gloomy despair, tinged rather with vengeance and fury, than with serenity or resignation. — After he had indulged for some time in “all the luxury of woe,” he proceeded :

“ Before I was fifteen years old, I was a man in every point except knowledge and experience ; and my own pride, and the praises of my parents, easily persuaded me I wanted neither. The care of my education was entrusted to the curate

of the parish, who was my father's bottle companion, and whose pious declamations against the sectaries, served instead of the mild doctrines of him whose servant and follower he professed himself to be. The name of my pedagogue was Dixon. In the earlier part of his life, he had followed the occupation of an attorney, but not meeting with the success which he thought his abilities deserved, he quitted the law, and entered into the service of the church. He was a sycophant in every sense of the word ; and possessed not one single virtue, to shed a ray of honour on his character, or veil the baseness of his heart. But I will not contaminate my lips with the description of a fiend. Under the tuition of this illiterate sophister, my progress in learning was confined to the simple acquirements of reading and writing.

writing, and being able to translate Eutropius, with the help of Clarke's Translation. This was the summit of my knowledge; and, I believe, nearly all that my tutor was capable of teaching me. But my father, far from suspecting any deficiency, looked upon me as the greatest genius that ever belonged to the family, and resolved to bring me up to the church, to which he often prophesied I should one day become one of the greatest ornaments that England had ever produced.

“ For this purpose, I was kept at Mr. Dixon's school many months after I was as learned as himself: for, as the schoolmaster valued my father's friendship too much to hazard a diminution of it, by confessing his own inability, he was continually boasting of improvements I never made, and telling my father of my rapid

progress in authors, with whose names I was barely acquainted. I was well satisfied with this deception, which procured me commendations without the trouble of deserving them; for I was averse to study and application, and had little inclination to explore the higher regions of literature. The exercises and sports of the field were my delight, and I regretted even the scanty portion of time that was consecrated to instruction, because it deprived me of these enjoyments.

“ To compensate, however, for my ignorance, I was an adept at boxing; not a rustic within the circle of ten miles could throw the quoit with more dexterity than I, nor pass me in the race. The muscular strength of my body, aided by activity and skill, won me the palm at wrestling;

wrestling ; and I could handle the quarterstaff, against the most expert cudgel-players. These accomplishments were my pride and delight. I spared no pains to surpass my competitors, and the numerous scars I still retain evince my hardiness and perseverance.

“ Such were my pursuits when I was about sixteen years old. At this time, an old officer, who had served with considerable reputation in the army, came to reside in our parish ; and, being an entertaining companion, and fond of his bottle, he soon became a welcome guest at my father’s table. Though an officer in the army, and a man of pleasure (pardon me for using synonymous terms), he possessed a copious fund of originality and information ; his understanding was vigorous, and unbiassed by prejudices ; his

wit was brilliant and acute, and his learning superior to many of those who spend their lives in study and retirement.

“ It happened that this officer dined one day at my father’s house, in company with the curate and myself; and, after dinner, the curate began, as usual, to expatiate on the great progress I was making in my learning. The extravagant encomiums the curate bestowed upon me, excited the attention of the officer; and, as he was one of those men who require proofs rather than assertions, he asked me several questions, and perceiving by my answers that I was totally unable to support any pretensions to learning, he addressed himself to the curate, desiring to be informed how many years I had been under his tuition? Five years, was the reply. ‘ Then,’ said the officer,

ficer, ' your pupil has made a most wonderful progress indeed, and reflects great credit on his master.' Mr. Dixon returned the sarcastic compliments of the officer with a slight inclination of his head, which might have been construed into a double meaning; but as he exhibited no other signs of approbation or disapprobation, it is most probable that he regarded the officer's compliments in a neutral light; and was silent because either his modesty did not wish to hear a repetition of them, or his conscious guilt dreaded an explanation of them. Which of these suppositions approaches nearest to the truth, you will be at no great loss to determine. The rest of our conversation that day was unimportant, for the pleasures of the bottle soon absorbed our rational

rational discourse, and Luther and b—dy supplied its place.”

Here his narrative was interrupted by M^r Frazer, who requested to be informed, if by Luther he meant the Protestant religion?

“Most certainly,” rejoined Mr. Launcey, “for, I dare say, not one in the company, except the old officer, knew any more of Martin Luther, than of the man in the moon, or the wandering Jew. They were perfectly well satisfied with the established religion as they found it; and it made no matter to them, whether an angel or a devil was the author of their creed. No story was too incredible for their credulity, provided it assumed the mask of religion; but, on the contrary, no arguments could make them believe the most common phenomena of nature, unless

less they had visual proofs of their existence. Their faith resembled that of the old woman, who requested her son to give her an account of the curiosities which he had seen in foreign countries ; ‘ I have seen,’ said the wag, ‘ mountains of sugar, and rivers of rum.’ ‘ Very possible,’ chimed the mother. ‘ I have also seen flying-fish,’ continued the son. ‘ I will not believe that,’ answered the mother ; ‘ there may be mountains of sugar, and rivers of rum, but flying-fish are impossible !’

“ The old officer called upon my father the next day, and cautioned him against the ignorance and inability of the curate, who, he said, was not only picking his pocket, but also ruining the future prospects of his son. It was some time before my father could be persuaded to give
any

any credit to the officer's assertions; but, when he still persisted in his account, and declared he would acknowledge himself to be wrong, if I could acquit myself only tolerably well in any one of the branches of learning in which the school-master boasted I had made so great a progress, my father's confidence was rather staggered, and he readily consented that I should be sent for, to undergo an examination.

“ It would be tedious to relate the questions the officer put to me during this examination. They were sufficient to prove my ignorance, which, after some equivocation, I myself was obliged to confess. The curate was then called; but he, with steady obstinacy, denied the charges that were alleged against him, and endeavoured to retort them on his accuser.

accuser. His affirmations had, however, very little effect, when he could produce no facts to support them, and had to contend with so skilful an antagonist.

“The rage of my father at this discovery was ungovernable: he wanted words to express the violence of his indignation, but his furious gestures were sufficient to inform the pedagogue, that that was an improper time for argument or explanation; he therefore prudently withdrew from my father’s presence, and left me to bear the brunt of his anger. When the parson was gone, my father began to vent his passion on me, swearing he would turn me out of doors next day, and not leave me a single shilling at his death. To this threat, I answered, with more warmth than prudence, that he might do as he pleased, for I had a thousand pounds left

left me by my grandmother, which it was not in his power to take from me. This bravado exasperated him beyond all bounds; and laying hold of a horse-whip, which stood in a corner of the room, he began to exercise a most terrible manual vengeance on my body. The old officer now interposed, and begged my father to suffer him to take me to his own house. To this proposal my father assented without much intreaty, and added, with many oaths, that he never desired to see my face again.

“ I now resided at the house of the old officer, who behaved to me with tenderness and friendship, and sought by every method in his power to relieve the anxiety of my mind. In this he succeeded so well, that I not only forgot the disservice he had done me with my father, but was
happy

happy at the reflection, that he had rescued me from the dangerous ignorance of the curate, whose frauds and artifices I now saw in their proper colours.

“ Aided by the advice, and improved by the instructions of my mentor, reason began to assert her just authority over my mind, and the excellence of virtue to triumph over the specious illusions of falsehood and deception. To speak in plainer terms, I was acquainted with my errors, and determined to amend them: I saw the folly of my conduct, and was resolved to correct it. I abjured the sports of the field, and dedicated my whole time to retrieve those hours and years, which I had spent on unprofitable pursuits. But, alas! how weak, how feeble are the resolutions of virtue, when opposed to the more powerful temptations of vice!

“ I had,

“ I had, for some time previous to my residence with the old officer, carried on an amour with one of my father’s maid-servants, who was at least six or eight years elder than myself, and, to say the truth, the seducer rather than the seduced. This woman came to me one day when my mentor was abroad, and breaking out into the most violent lamentations, informed me, that the consequences of our amour could be no longer concealed. I cannot describe the sensations which at that moment I felt. I doated to distraction on the woman, and considered myself as the cause of her ruin. The pains of the damned could not equal mine. First love, if not the most lasting, is the most passionate and impetuous; it attacks the heart rather than the head, the body rather than the understanding. Such

was

was my situation: I was unable to distinguish between pure affection and vicious desire. I immediately made a proposal of marriage to my innamorata, and she, drying up her tears, readily agreed to it. I was at this time little more than sixteen, consequently I could not be married in any church in England, without first having the banns published, and we had every reason to suppose that my father would forbid and prevent our union. But this difficulty was soon surmounted, by the consideration that we might be married at Gretna-Green, and then it could be of no avail, if my father afterwards refused to consent to our marriage in England. We had still, however, another obstacle to overcome, which was even of more importance than the former—we were both destitute of money.

—Love,

—Love, however, has few scruples, is fertile in its resources, but most commonly blind to the consequences of its actions: I speak only for myself. Far be it from me to inveigh with rancorous asperity, or malevolent hatred, against the noble, generous, and unsullied passion, that warms the virtuous heart, expands the best feelings of the soul, and calls each great and vigorous faculty of the mind into action.—Alas! my passion was not of that description.

“ In the height of the distress which our want of money occasioned, it occurred to me, that my friend, the officer, had received thirty guineas from his agent a few days before, and that, with the assistance of a hammer, I could make myself master of that sum. I immediately communicated this scheme to my mistress:

she

she approved highly of it, and entreated
 me to put it instantly into execution, lest
 any unforeseen accident should intervene
 to mar our project. Though I made the
 proposal myself, I hesitated to execute it.
 Vice had not taken absolute possession of
 my heart. I had still some sparks of virtue
 remaining, and was not dead to every sen-
 timent of justice and honour. But they
 were soon eradicated by the arts and ar-
 guments of my mistress. When she found,
 that I wavered between the scruples of
 conscience, and the dictates of passion,
 she began to accuse me of want of affec-
 tion; and bursting into a flood of tears,
 declared, that if I should prove unfaithful,
 she would put an end to her existence.
 I was unable to resist her tears; and ter-
 rified at her threats and imprecations, I
 consented to her prayer, and in one fatal
 moment,

moment, confirmed the bane of my future life. Thrice was I going to restore the accursed gold, and as often was I prevented by the more accursed woman.—— I became a fiend and a devil—a monster——but I have carried the deadly potion in my breast, and —— man is the victim of necessity !”

The agitation which accompanied these last words, plainly expressed the distress of his mind : his colour alternately changed from red to pale ; and, unable any longer to conceal his emotions, or stifle his groans, he retired to a corner of the room, and there gave vent to his sorrows. In vain he strove to resist the pressure of his grief, and calm the contending passions of his soul : resistance served only to render them more violent, and reflection more acute. I have been a spectator of
distress

distress in many situations of life; and I flatter myself, I have not been an unattentive observer of the varieties of the human character: I have seen the widowed mother bewailing the loss of her only child, the pride and prop of her declining years: I have seen the husband lamenting the loss of an amiable wife, torn, in the meridian of life, from him and a tender family: I have seen the African, at the command of his inhuman master, compelled to violate the sacred ties of friendship and consanguinity, and scourge his brother, his sister, or the partner of his sufferings*. Yet, amidst all these, I

* Amongst the various refinements of West-Indian barbarity, which the art of man has invented, or his cruelty employed, there is not one that calls louder upon the animadversion of the philanthropist, and the interposition of the legislator, than the diabolical practice of making one brother the inflicter of the punishment of another!

never saw anguish and despair so horribly blended on any countenance as on that of our host.——After a considerable pause, he proceeded with his narrative.——

“ I was married at Gretna-Green ; and while the thirty guineas remained, I enjoyed as great a portion of felicity as could be expected for one in my circumstances. But the intoxicating delusion was soon dissipated, and sorrows and misfortunes succeeded in its place. The expence of travelling, and our luxurious manner of living, quickly consumed our ill-gotten money, and opened our eyes to the misery of our situation. It was then I wrote to my father, informing him of the wretchedness of my condition, and begging, in the most humiliating terms, to be restored again to his favour and protection. To this letter I received a laconic answer,

answer, which realized my worst fears, and almost destroyed every gleam of hope and expectation. The tide of ruin now increased with accumulated violence, and all the horrors of poverty and want stared me in the face. But poverty and want were the least of my sufferings; and of them my spirit refused to complain. I have already informed you, that I had two brothers, who were both elder than myself. During the days of my prosperity, the strictest friendship and union subsisted between us; but adversity loosened the bonds of our friendship, and converted our union into enmity and hatred!

“ After I received my father’s letter, I wrote to my eldest brother, conjuring him by our former affection, and the name of brother, to protect my wife, and use his best endeavours to restore me to the

favour of my father. But if my portion of misery had not reached its acme before, his answer completed it, and plunged me into the deepest abyss of woe. Instead of pity or consolation, his letter breathed invectives and abuse: it was filled with every insult that malice could suggest, or malevolence contrive; and when the vocabulary of reproach was exhausted, he concluded with informing me, that his utmost and incessant endeavours should be employed to prevent a reconciliation ever taking place between my father and me.

“This letter effectually roused me from the lethargy of grief into which I had fallen: it inspired me with a resentment bordering on madness, and I defied the malice of the world, and the hatred
and

and persecution of my kinsman. I determined no longer to humble myself with entreaties, and professions of penitence and contrition: my spirit refused to submit to the ungrateful, unavailing, talk; and I resolved to rely on myself for support; and hold no further correspondence with those who forsook me when I most required their assistance.

“ Animated with these resolutions, and a temper naturally haughty and incapable of submission, I enlisted with a party of soldiers, that were beating up for recruits, for the service of the British army, at that time in Germany. My inexperience, and a total want of the necessaries of life, induced me to take this step, which you may perhaps consider as the very last that a man in his sound senses would think of

adopting. But my mind was too much agitated, my heart was too sad, to suffer me to reflect on the occupation I had embraced. I thought not of its hardships and toils till I experienced their pressure; and then I could only repent the precipitance of my resolution, and curse the rashness that had placed me in the condition of a slave.

“ A few weeks after I had enlisted for a soldier, I was transported to the continent, with about five hundred wretches, who, like myself, preferred the glorious sword to the inglorious plowshare; or who chose rather to be shot abroad, than to perish of hunger at home. My wife was unable to accompany me, on account of her pregnancy; but as she was promised to be sent over to
join

join me, as soon as she was able to per-
form the journey, and had received the
greater part of my bounty-money; she ap-
peared tolerably well satisfied with her
situation.

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CHAPTER II.

I ARRIVED in Germany time enough to partake of the glory and disgrace of the field of Minden; but as it is most probable that you are already acquainted with the achievements and mistakes of that memorable day, I shall not fatigue you with an account of them. During the remainder of the campaign, I was present at several skirmishes, that took place between the allied army, under the command of Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, and the French, under Marechal Contades: but as they were neither distinguished by the multitude of slain, nor the capture of many men or trophies, their names are sunk into oblivion, or are only to be found in the gazettes and newspapers

papers that chronicled the slaughter and follies of the times.

“ Early in the ensuing campaign, I was joined by my wife, who had been delivered of a still-born child four months after I left her. The pleasure her society afforded me, tended in some degree to alleviate the fatigues, and counterbalance the hardships, of a camp-life, which this year were uncommonly distressing and severe. For though we lost few by the sword, great numbers perished of famine and disease; and we were almost continually harassed by detached parties of the enemy, who waged a predatory, rather than offensive, war, and destroyed more of our men by cutting off our supplies, than they did by fair fighting.

“ Towards the latter end of this campaign, the battalion to which I belonged

received orders to return to England. My joy was unbounded at this intelligence, and I hastened to communicate it to my wife. But judge what were my sensations when she positively refused to accompany me, assigning for her reason, that she should be better provided for in Germany than in England. I was for some time at a loss to discover what was her meaning; but she at length explained the mystery, by informing me, that a drum-major, in another regiment, had made her such proposals, that she could not in prudence reject them, and therefore she determined to remain where she was. In vain I expostulated with her, and reminded her of the affection that had formerly subsisted between us, and which on my part still continued unimpaired: in vain I enumerated the sacri-

fices I had made, and the dangers I had encountered for her sake. She laughed at the extravagance of my passion, and calmly replied, that she must not forget her own interests for mine; and though she was obliged to leave me, she would always remember me with tenderness and affection.

“ This last piece of consolation, though of little efficacy in itself, was a well-seasoned *morceau* of flattery; and as I was obliged, by the laws of honour and of foldiers, not to detain my wife against her inclination, I feigned to be perfectly well satisfied with her determination. After some reciprocal compliments, which it would be tedious to relate, we parted with the same apparent indifference, as when fellow-travellers take leave of each other at the end of a stage.

“ Reflection soon reconciled me to our separation, and I only lamented that our union had ever taken place. I now saw and felt the infatuation of my conduct, and cursed the hour when I yielded to the soliciation of a harlot. The various disgusting circumstances that attend a military life, were aggravated by remorse, and the melancholy prospect of what I was yet doomed to suffer.

“ On my arrival in England, the regiment to which I belonged was quartered at a town about forty miles distance from the place of my nativity; and we now enjoyed a respite from the dangers and fatigues of a camp-life. I once thought a camp was the worst situation in which a soldier could possibly be placed; but experience has since taught me, that the hardships he endures in a camp, are pleasures,

pleasures, when compared with his sufferings in quarters. In the camp he is surrounded by his comrades; men, who, like himself, have forfeited their rights, and the privileges of nature. Sober reflection is banished by the danger and pageantry of war, and reason presumes not to enter the confines of his entrenchment. When unoccupied by military duty, he joins his comrade in the dance, or enlivens the vacant hour with the cheerful song; he listens to the rodomontades of his fellow-foldiers, or relates the marvellous tale of his own exploits. His wants, his distresses, of every kind, and the dangers he is daily compelled to encounter, are alleviated by the consideration, that thousands are in the same situation as himself, and daily obliged to endure the same afflictions. His misery is
not

not heightened by comparison, nor aggravated by the prospect of surrounding happiness. All around him display the same burden of calamity that he himself is condemned to bear.—Let us view the condition of the soldier in home-quarters.—He is a stranger and an alien where he resides, and his profession is hooted at and despised. None, except the very dregs of mankind, will condescend to associate with him, and he often finds himself rejected even by them. The very name of his profession conveys an idea of reproach; and children, while they gaze with wonder at his evolutions, mark, with an eye of contempt, the distinction that separates him from the rest of mankind. The singularity of his dress, his mechanism, and his blind and implicit obedience to the will of his superiors, inspire be-
 holders

holders with sentiments of ridicule and disgust, which all the parade and pomp of military array is unable to destroy or eradicate. An impassible line of demarcation is drawn between the soldier and the rest of mankind, and society sternly refuses to admit him to participate in her comforts. Surrounding objects aggravate the infelicity of his condition, and he feels himself an outcast from the world. He is not permitted to mingle with other men, nor share in their amusements and recreations. The tattered beggar, who at night makes a scanty meal on the offals he has collected during the day, and allays his thirst from the brook, enjoys more real comfort, more substantial happiness, than the soldier: for the beggar is pitied, not despised; and when he lays himself down on the hard pallet of the earth, he

may

may exultingly exclaim, ' There is a class of beings more miserable than myself, for I am free, but they are slaves! I am poor, but they are despised !' You must observe, my friends, that I describe the condition of a common-soldier whose habits are in some degree reflective, and who is not totally immersed in brutality and ignorance.

" I had been two months in England, before I thought proper to make any enquiries after my relations ; but when that time was elapsed, I wrote to my mother, entreating her to intercede with my father, to permit me to return home. Three weeks past away, and I received no answer to my letter. I wrote again, but still without success. I then determined to try what effect a personal application would produce, and learn my final sentence,

tence, rather than remain in doubt and expectation. For this purpose I applied to the colonel of the regiment, to grant me a furlough for six days; but I was unable to obtain it, for he told me the regiment was going shortly to be employed on foreign service, so that it was impossible to comply with my request. The dread of being again sent abroad, and the mortification of the refusal of the furlough, preyed upon my spirits, and I resolved not to submit to the imperious dictate of the colonel.

“ I quitted the town where my regiment was quartered the same evening, and travelling all night, without making any stoppages upon the road, I arrived early the next morning at a village, distant about fifteen miles from the place of my destination. I halted at this place
only

only a short time to take some necessary refreshment, and then recommenced my journey. Towards noon of the second day, I arrived safe at my native village; and, not daring to go directly to my father's house, I took up my abode at an hedge-alehouse, and from thence dispatched a letter to my mother, to acquaint her with my arrival. The messenger who carried the letter, had not been gone above an hour, before he returned, accompanied by two constables, who told me I was their prisoner, and must go with them. I demanded to see their warrant, and know by what authority they acted. They answered me, that they had no warrant, but that they were sufficiently authorised to act as they did. They then produced a pair of hand-cuffs, with which (to use their own language) they com-

mented

mented my wrists, and afterwards bound my legs with heavy shackles. I submitted without the least resistance to this treatment, and deigned not to reply to the insults and abuse which they bountifully bestowed upon me.

“ When I was thus pinioned and secured, the constables conducted me to a cell in the church-yard, which in former times had been used for a cemetery, but was now converted into a place of confinement, where offenders were kept until they could be sent to the county gaol. After the door of this subterranean dungeon was securely barricadoed, the constables left me to my meditations, wishing me sound sleep and pleasant dreams. I was now free from the galling insolence of these rascals; and the contempt I entertained for them, soon
gave

gave place to sensations of a different nature. I suspected my father was the author of my imprisonment; but, would he send me back in fetters to my regiment?—would his unappeasable resentment expose me to all the rigours of martial law? These were agonizing doubts. I had nothing to hope from his pity, but every thing to fear from his resentment. He had treated my submissions with contempt, and my supplications with disdain; would he now listen to my prayer?—would he now be moved with my intreaties? or would he commiserate my tears? Impossible! His heart was inflexibly steeled against me, and his unrelenting enmity, would pursue me to destruction! —Enough.—‘ Though he may hate me, he shall not despise me!’ though he execrate me, he shall admire my fortitude!

I will

I will smile at his malice, and brave his vengeance: I will meet my punishment without a sigh; and even in the agonies of death, a groan shall not escape my lips to gratify his ear. I will cherish my fortitude to the last moment of my life: oppression shall not weaken it, nor tortures abate its vigour. But it shall increase with affliction, and derive strength from my calamities: it shall flourish amidst my woes, and be invincible amidst my sorrows!

“Such were the reflections of my dungeon.—In the morning the two constables came to visit me, and brought me some bread and water, which they said was the only breakfast I should get, and told me not to be long over it, for they wanted soon to carry me to another place. I had scarcely swallowed my miserable breakfast,

fast, when the constables returned, and opening the door of the cemetery, commanded me to come out. They then conducted me (through the well-known haunts of my youth, amidst the scoffs and hisses of the village mob, the taunts of the young, and the reproaches old) to the habitation of my father. Each object recalled to my mind the pleasures and delights of my earlier years: I was unmanned, my spirits and resolution forsook me, and I could no longer restrain my tears.

“I was carried to the hall, and remained some time without seeing any person I knew. An aged domestic at length made his appearance, and after whispering a message to the constables, was about to leave the room, when I intreated him to let me have a few minutes conversation
I
apart

apart with him. — 'Sooner,' answered he, turning round, and eying me with disdain, 'would I associate with a viper, or trust myself within the grasp of a tyger, than I would listen for a moment to thy accursed tongue.' I scorned to make any reply to the hoary sycophant. Pride and indignation restored my fainting spirits, and I regretted the weakness that had betrayed me into tears. Soon, however, I was compelled to forego my resolution, and indulge the workings of nature. A spaniel, who had been the friend and companion of my youth, came into the hall, and recognising me, leaped upon my knees, and almost devoured me with his mute caresses. I repaid his endearments with tears, and his fondness with sighs. But our mutual joy was too soon interrupted by the entrance of my father, who sternly commanded the animal

animal to be taken away. My father was attended by my two brothers, and the detested Dixon. After he had examined the constables relative to the circumstances of my apprehension, he asked me, if I had got a furlough from the colonel of my regiment? I answered in the negative; and was proceeding to enter upon a vindication of my conduct, when he and his attendants quitted the room, without deigning to take any further notice of me.

“After a short interval, Dixon returned with a mittimus, which charged me with being a deserter from his Majesty’s service, and required the constables to lodge me in the county gaol. I was then conducted to the hedge-alehouse, from whence I had been taken the preceding evening, and only remained there until a

cart

cart could be procured to convey me and my worthy guardians to the county gaol. When this vehicle was provided, and we were ready to set out on our journey, a difficulty suggested itself to the constables, which occasioned a delay of near two hours. Though I was loaded with all the fetters belonging to the village, these sapient officers of justice were afraid that I might make my escape, and determined not to proceed, until I was better secured. This they accomplished to their satisfaction with the assistance of a chain, which they fastened round my middle, and padlocked to a staple in the cart.

“ When I was thus secured, we commenced our journey, and towards the close of the day arrived at a hamlet, where the constables designed to stay all night ;

but on making inquiry for lodgings at the only public-house which the place afforded, the landlord peremptorily refused to harbour us. In vain the constables informed him why I was a prisoner, and conjured him to let us remain in his house till morning, offering to pay him any recompense he thought fit to demand. But they might as well have preached to the wind, for the sturdy boniface obstinately persisted in his denial, and put an end to the conference by shutting the door. We now recommenced our journey. The night was dark ; a perpetual fall of sleet obscured the luminaries of the sky, and the road was so heavy, that the wearied horse could scarcely drag us along. The constables now began to repent that they had undertaken the expedition, and bestowed many curses on
me

me as the author of it. The prospect of being exposed all night to the severity of a December's storm, was by no means calculated to soften the ruggedness of their dispositions. They loaded me with a thousand imprecations, and I did not think it prudent to make any reply, lest they should proceed to any acts of violence, which, in my manacled condition, I could not resist. But my patient acquiescence, far from appeasing their anger, exasperated them as much as the most virulent abuse could have done ; and one of them, striking me a severe blow with the but-end of his whip, demanded to know, if I was as insensible to cold as I was to shame? I answered, that I was not quite so insensible to cold as he was to pity. This retort produced another blow more weighty than the first ; and it

is more than probable, I should not have been alive to relate my tale this day, had not the attention of my persecutors been attracted by a noise, which proceeded from a house near the road-side. Thither one of the constables went, to learn how far we were distant from the next village ; but finding it to be a house of entertainment, and the landlord not very scrupulous about his guests, he called to his companion to bring the cart to the door. My chain was now unlocked, and I was conducted by one of the constables into the house, while the other led the horse to the stable. We were ushered into a kitchen, where about a dozen men were regaling themselves over a bowl of rum-punch. They were rather disconcerted at our strange appearance, and the clanking of my chains, but when the landlord informed

(53)
informed them I was only a poor deserter, they resumed their merriment, and invited my guardians and me to partake of their bowl. The constables readily accepted the offer, but they would not permit me to share with them, affirming, that they had express orders to allow me no kind of drink except water.

“ The glass now circulated freely, and the lively song beguiled the tedious hours of the night: mirth and gaiety sat on every countenance save mine, and save mine every heart was exhilarated by the potent bowl. The constables had agreed, when they first entered the house, that one of them should guard me whilst the other retired to rest. But they now found the liquor so good, and the company so very agreeable, that they relinquished their design, and determined to sit up as

long as the rest of the company should continue of the same mind.

“ Warmed by frequent draughts of punch, they forgot the mandate which prohibited me to partake of it, and I was permitted to join their society. I entertained them with a narrative of my campaign, and sung a few bacchanalian songs for their diversion. By this time the liquor began to operate powerfully on my keepers; they were scarce able to sit upon their chairs; and, after swallowing a few bumpers more, they became completely intoxicated. When the constables lay on the floor, totally bereft of their senses, I was accosted by one of the men, nearly in these words :

“ ‘Are you a man of courage?—Are you desirous of regaining your liberty?’

“ ‘ You need entertain no doubt of either !’

ther!" answered I, astonished at the questions.

" ' Can you preserve the most inviolable secrecy ; and never discover to whom you were indebted for your freedom, should it be your misfortune to be retaken ? ' "

" ' Dictate the oath that is to bind my fidelity, and I will solemnly repeat it. ' "

" ' The word of a man is sufficient for me. I could have very little reliance on the oath of any person, whose bare promise I had reason to doubt.—But the time is precious and we must proceed to action. ' "

" He then conducted me into another room ; and, leaving me for a few minutes by myself, he went to procure the proper tools to rid me of my fetters. He returned, accompanied by two of his companions, who were each furnished with

a large file, a chissel for cutting iron, and a mallet. With the assistance of these instruments, I was soon restored to my liberty; and, after thanking my deliverers for their kindness, I ventured to ask them, why they entertained such sentiments of compassion towards me?

“ ‘We are a party of smugglers,’ answered the man who first accosted me; ‘and as such, inveterate enemies to every description of officers of justice. They are our professional adversaries, our perpetual antagonists: they wage an endless war against us, and continually seek to pursue us to destruction. The hatred that exists between us, is maintained in its full vigour by mutual acts of retaliation and violence; and our resentment gradually becomes systematic and implacable.

To

To gratify the spirit of retribution and revenge, we gladly embrace every opportunity to harass and annoy these our mortal enemies; and to accomplish that end, we think no labour too severe, no difficulty too arduous. When we first became acquainted with your story, we determined to release you from your bondage; and, had not the liquor composed your keepers to sleep, we were resolved to have liberated you by force. The best plan you can now pursue, will be immediately to quit this house, and fly the country with the utmost expedition. If you have money sufficient to carry you either to Scotland or Ireland, it would be most advisable for you to quit England, and in either of the sister kingdoms you would be tolerably secure. But if you have got no money, do not be ashamed

to let me know, and I will furnish you with sufficient to defray the expences of your journey.'

" I replied that my whole fortune only amounted to three half-crowns.

" ' Then,' said he, putting two guineas into my hand, ' our purse shall supply the deficiency ; and if you do not think that enough, I will, with all my heart, double the sum.'

" Confounded at his generosity, I could scarcely articulate my thanks, and that his gift was fully adequate to my utmost wish.

" Before I quitted these newly-acquired friends, I experienced another act of their kindness ; they would not suffer me to depart in my soldier's dress, lest it should lead to my apprehension, but made me exchange my red coat, and regimental

tal waistcoat and breeches, for a pair of woollen trousers, a postillion's jacket, and a carman's frock. I also parted with my cocked-hat, and military-cue, and defended my head from the inclemency of the weather with a stout leather-cap, lined with flannel. Thus equipped, I parted with my generous friends, and set out on my journey.

CHAPTER III.

“ **I**T was near two o’clock in the morning when I commenced my march : the fleet still continued to pour from the sky, and darken the face of heaven. But darkness and cold were trivial impediments to my speed : I was animated by the ardour of liberty, and despised the persecution of the elements. Man, ferocious man, was my persecutor ! From him I could expect no mercy, from him I need not look for pity ! The debt of vengeance was unpaid ! The craving maw of malice remained unsatisfied ! For what end was I condemned to exist ? Must I for ever wander a forlorn outcast from society ? Is there no hiding-place from misery and persecution ?—

“ These

“ These melancholy reflections were interrupted by the approach of a farmer, who was driving a cart of corn to the neighbouring market. He invited me to take a seat in his cart; and, as it was my intention to pass through the market-town, to which he was carrying his corn, and his horses went at a quicker pace than I could walk, I readily accepted his offer.

“ The conversation of the farmer was by no means calculated to calm the uneasiness of my mind. I was afraid he suspected my disguise, and would cause me to be examined when we arrived at the market-town. My story would not bear the test of investigation, and I should be obliged to confess myself a deserter. These were dreadful ideas: but, heaven and earth! what were my sensations when

when he informed me that two constables had been murdered that morning by a gang of smugglers at the — public-house. Fortunately for me, his attention was occupied by his horses while he related the story of the murder, otherwise it was impossible but he must have perceived my excessive agitation. I trembled with horror, and was unable to inquire into the particulars of the bloody deed. I learnt, however, from the farmer's account, that the constables had had a felon in their custody, and were carrying him to the county gaol, but night overtaking them, they were obliged to take up their abode at the same public-house where a party of smugglers were lodged. During the course of the night, the smugglers assaulted the peace-officers, and demanded the release of the prisoner;

foner ; but this being refused, a quarrel ensued, the prisoner was set at liberty, and both the constables were killed outright on the spot.

“ When I recovered from the first emotions of horror and stupefaction, which this dreadful intelligence created in my mind, I endeavoured to assume an air of unconcern, and asked the farmer if the murderers were in custody, or if he had seen the dead bodies ? He answered me, that the leader of the smugglers, and another belonging to the same gang, were in custody, but the rest of them, and the felon, had made their escape ; and as for the murdered men, he had not, indeed, seen them himself, but he had been along with Gaffer Penrose, who had spoke to Squire Holliday’s hind, who had seen the two unfortunate constables with their
throats

throats cut from ear to ear, and both of them as dead as Queen Anne.

“Such was the farmer’s account ; and I did not venture to ask him any more questions, lest he should suspect the true motive from whence my curiosity originated, or, in his turn, propose some interrogatories, which might not be perfectly agreeable for me to answer. I therefore changed the conversation to the hacknied topics of the day—the state of the weather, and the price of corn. These subjects furnished us with sufficient matter for conversation, till we arrived at the market-town ; I then took my leave of the farmer, who, to my inexpressible satisfaction, made not the least attempt to detain me. I did not make any stay in the town, because I knew the account of the murder would soon become public, and as I could give

no

no good account of myself, I might be apprehended on suspicion of being concerned in it.

“ When I quitted the market-town, I did not dare to pursue my route along the turnpike-road ; but, striking into the fields, I endeavoured to avoid the haunts and habitations of man. It was my intention to go to Liverpool, and from thence to take shipping for Ireland, where I hoped to remain secure from the vigilance of my pursuers, and, by my labour, be enabled to procure a livelihood sufficient for my wants and desires. I amused myself with figuring to my imagination, the future history of my life. Fancy decked the landscape with gay flowers ; and I indulged the pleasing expectation, that fortune might perhaps bestow happiness

pinefs and comfort to compensate for all my affliction and grief.

“ Yet when I reflected on my helpless situation, when I considered the dangers and difficulties I had to overcome, before I could expect to enjoy tranquillity and ease, my heart failed me, my hopes vanished, all my dreams of future happiness were dissipated, and melancholy and despair usurped the empire of my soul. I am no longer considered as a poor deserter, but as a murderer, reeking with the blood of my fellow-beings ! I cannot now expect to escape ! The whole power of the law will be exerted against me, and I shall fall the victim of its vengeance ! Though I am innocent, the fate of the guilty awaits me ! No one will attest my innocence ; no one will appear in my behalf ! Circumstances conspire against me ;

me; the prejudices of the world will heighten them into proofs, and my life must be sacrificed to appease the spirit of revenge!

“ Whilst my mind was agitated by these considerations, I wandered insensibly from the fields, and regained the high-road. Too much absorbed with the misery of my situation, to reflect on the danger I exposed myself to, by travelling on the public road, I continued my route until I arrived at the town where I had formerly enlisted for a soldier. At first I intended not to have made any stay in the place, but my exhausted frame demanded refreshment, and I found myself unable to proceed any further without taking some nourishment. I therefore went into a public-house, and seating myself in a corner near the fire, I called
for

for some bread and cheefe, and a tankard of ale. On these I made a comfortable meal; and was preparing to depart, when the two constables, who I thought were murdered, entered the house, and again made me their prisoner.

The pleasure I experienced at seeing them alive, amply compensated for my loss of liberty. I wept for joy, and could scarce credit the testimony of my eyes, till they gave me corporal proofs of their existence. But I will not fatigue you with a prolix account of the harsh treatment I endured, while in the custody of these wretches.

“ I was carried by them to the county gaol. On the way, they informed me, that when they awoke, and discovered that I had made my escape, they charged the landlord with assisting me, and threatened

ened to take him into custody, unless he confessed by what means I had got away, and what route I had taken. Their menaces alarmed the publican; and as the smugglers had departed soon after I did, he had no longer any thing to fear from them, and therefore readily disclosed the particulars of my flight. As soon as the constables were masters of this intelligence, they fabricated the story of their own tragical deaths, judging that that rumour would soon be believed, and I might be apprehended in consequence of it. They then went to the market-town which I passed through early in the morning, and there receiving pretty accurate information concerning me, they were enabled to trace me to the public-house where I was taken.

“ I remained only a few days in the
county

county goal, and was then delivered over to the military power. A court-martial was shortly afterwards appointed to try me for desertion, and I was sentenced to receive two hundred and fifty lashes on the bare back. This punishment was executed with so much rigour, that I was obliged to be carried to an hospital, where I was fortunately detained by my wounds some weeks after my regiment was shipped for the West-Indies. Thus, my friends, did good proceed from evil.

“ When my wounds were perfectly healed, I was drafted into another regiment, on the home-establishment; in which I continued, without any material circumstance happening to me, until I came of age. I was then in possession of a thousand pounds, bequeathed me by my grandmother; and my first care was

to purchase my discharge from the regiment to which I belonged. I then gave four hundred pounds for an ensign's commission in the royal artillery, and in that situation, I spent a few months of tolerable tranquillity and happiness. But the malice of my implacable persecutors was not yet satisfied; and while I thought myself secure, a new storm was brewing over my head.

“ My father and brothers by some means became acquainted with my situation; and still actuated by the spirit of revenge, they wrote a letter to the colonel of my corps, informing him of those circumstances of my history, with which you are already acquainted. The robbery I had committed might have been forgiven in a military court of honour, for officers in general entertain
very

very lax ideas respecting property ; but desertion was a crime of unpardonable magnitude ; and I was informed it was expected I would sell my commission, as I must not be permitted to contaminate the immaculate purity of the army. I was a considerable loser by the sale of my commission, and remained some time without any employment, which, though I lived with economy, greatly diminished my fortune. At length, however, I purchased a lieutenancy, in a regiment on the Irish establishment, in hopes that I should remain undiscovered in that kingdom, or, at least, that the resentment of my kindred would cease to harass me. But my expectations were disappointed. Scarcely had I arrived in Ireland, and joined my regiment, when my disgrace became public, and I was again obliged
to

to sell my commission. I was then forced to return to England, and despairing of being able by any means to avert the malice of my foes, I collected together the shattered remains of my fortune, with the intention of taking shipping for America. But I was diverted from this design by the quarrel which broke out between England and her colonies; and unwilling again to engage in scenes of blood, I laid out my money in the purchase of a life-annuity, and took a lease of this house.

“ Still, however, my retreat was discovered, and I was exhibited as an object of detestation and hatred. My reputation was blasted; and I was shunned by my fellow-beings, lest my infamy should be contagious. The singularity of my mode of living, gave rise to a thousand malicious

conjectures ; and it was reported among my neighbours, that I once attempted to take the life of my father, and afterwards, when I was forgiven that offence, that I robbed him of property to a very considerable amount.

“ These stories were universally credited, and I was debarred from society, as a wretch unfit for the company of human beings. I determined, however, to maintain my post against all the efforts of disappointed malice, to brave the disdain of the world, and laugh at the indignation of self-created moralists. In my turn, I despised the society of my arrogant equals, and sought associates only in the haunts of misery and want. In the gloom of the prison, and in the receptacle of disease, my name is not abhorred, for I visited them not to measure the dimensions

sions of cells, or the breadth of walls; I frequented them not for the ostentation of benevolence, nor to contrive new plans to augment the miseries of their wretched inhabitants; but I strove to dispense consolation to the unhappy, and relief to the afflicted: I endeavoured to lessen their sufferings, and assuage their pangs.—I became the friend and servant of the distressed.——

“ Such was my occupation from the time I first entered this mansion, and I still continue to fulfil all its duties with unremitting attention. The scorn and derision of the world cannot divert me from my course; and while my heart approves of my conduct, the censure or contempt of the giddy throng, shall not cause me to alter it. I will persevere

with unabated ardour in my career, and acquire fresh vigour from oppression!

“ It is now six years since my father died; but my eldest brother inherits his spirit of enmity as well as his estate, though time has in some degree abated the rancour of his hatred, and caused him to desist from persecuting me. The curate Dixon, married my mother shortly after she became a widow, and I understand their union has been a source of great unhappiness to them both. It was to that detested sycophant, that I owed all my misfortunes. After I enlisted for a soldier, he again insinuated himself into my father's favour, and became the adviser and director of all the schemes that were employed to harass and distress me. His disposition is fraught with

with malice, cruelty, and revenge, and I was the object of its gratification. But the blast is blown over, and my enemies have not enjoyed the triumph of my destruction. They have benefited rather than injured me, for they have taught me the true end of existence—the lesson of doing good to my fellow-creatures.”

CHAPTER IV.

HERE Mr. Launcey finished his narrative; and as it was now near midnight, M^r Frazer expressed a wish that we should return home to our garret; but our host refused to part with us, affirming, that the night air would be very injurious to our bruises. We did not require much entreaty to persuade us to remain where we were; and after we had supped on the mutton that was left at dinner, and drank another glass of Mr. Launcey's cordial, he conducted us to our bed-chamber.

After a sound sleep, we arose early in the morning, and finding ourselves almost perfectly recovered from our bruises, we took leave of our kind host, who, at parting, slipped two guineas into my hand,

hand, and in a whisper told me, he wanted soon to see me again. We then made the best of our way to our lodgings, rejoicing that we had discovered a man, whose heart could compassionate distress, and whose soul delighted to relieve it.

When we arrived at our garret, we found, to our great astonishment and consternation, that not only our wearing-apparel and manuscripts, but even our culinary utensils, had been taken away during our absence, and nothing remained, except the bed and furniture, which belonged to the master of the house. Our suspicions were principally directed against the police officers, who had apprehended us the day before, as they are a class of men reputed not to be scrupulously honest, when they have an opportunity of plundering without fear of detection. We,

however, considered mere suspicion as a very uncertain and unjust ground to go upon, and resolved, before we took any other steps, that I should wait upon our landlord, to learn if he could give any information of our property, as it was almost impossible that it could be removed out of the house without his knowledge. Besides, we were inclined to hope, as he had the appearance and reputation of a very honest man, that he might have taken our property under his own care; and, as we did not owe him any thing, would restore it to us as soon as we demanded it.

I accordingly waited upon the landlord, and in a few words informed him of the loss we had sustained.

“ Well,” answered he, in a morose tone

tone of voice, "do not you think you richly deserye all you have met with?"

The unexpected abruptness of this reply confounded me, and I could scarcely demand what he meant by his insinuation.

"Why" replied he, "you have brought a scandal on an honest man's house. I always had gentlemen to lodge with me; and for the course of five and twenty years never man came under my roof, that was thought either a thief or a murderer."

"Do you conceive us to be thieves and murderers?"

"Mayhap you may not, for any thing I know; but this I am sure and certain of, the Bow-street runners told me, that they apprehended you on fuspicion of robbing and murdering a Portuguese gentleman."

"Impossible!—They durst not, could not, say so!"

"You may believe me or not, just as you please: but I am of opinion, that my simple word would go farther in any court of justice than your bible oath; therefore I tell you again, they did say so; and for that very reason I am determined you shall no longer remain in my house: for, by God! (Lord forgive me for taking his name in vain) birds of your feather shall never find harbour with me."

"Moderate your anger. I will most assuredly leave your house at the expiration of this week, and sooner if you require it: but let me entreat you to inform me, if you know any thing of the [property we have lost, as there are some papers of considerable value, but which can be of service to none but ourselves."

"Do

"Do you suspect me of taking your papers?" interrupted the landlord, reddening with passion.

"No! But I thought you might perhaps be able to give me some intelligence respecting them; and that by your means we might recover them."

"All that I know about the matter is, that after the runners had carried you and your partner to Bow-street, they returned here, and took away with them every thing that belonged to you. I did not think of hindering them, because it was no business of mine, and they said, they were going to take what belonged you to Newgate, where, they informed me, you were safely lodged. Now that is the long and short of the business, and all that I know about it."

"Will you accompany me to Bow-

street, and there depose on oath what you have now related? that I may demand the restitution of our property, which has been illegally taken away from us, or at least that I may have the satisfaction of punishing the runners for their villany."

"I accompany you to Bow-street! I take an oath for your satisfaction! No! I would not have you to suspect that I am such a fool as that comes to. Pray what interest is it to me, that I should get myself into a scrape for a miscreant like you? I have trouble and business enough of my own to mind, without looking after other people's. Besides, I know better things, than to get the ill-will of the runners: they are a sort of men that stick close to one another, and if a body injures one, he might as well do harm to them all, for
they

they are all linked together, and will uphold each other. I would therefore recommend you to sit down contented with your loss, and be thankful that worse luck has not befallen you. Depend upon it, you will gain no advantage by going to the office, for the justice connives at the rogueries of his minions, and will give no credit to what you may say."

These last words were accompanied by those peculiar shrugs and gestures, which are significant of knowledge and experience, and most commonly used by the tribe of coal-heavers, porters, and hackney-coachmen, to illustrate and strengthen their arguments with the appearance of a mysterious importance, which is of service to their cause, according to the ignorance or credulity of their spectators.

When I found I could gain no further
information

information from the landlord, I left him to enjoy the high sense of his own importance, and returned to communicate to Mr Frazer the result of our conference. At first, my partner seemed inclined to submit with patience to our misfortune, rather than make any exertions to procure the restitution of our property. My sentiments differed, however, widely from his; and I represented to him, as well as I was able, the folly and imbecility of acquiescing in our loss, before we had tried every method in our power to recover it. By suffering villany to remain undetected, we are guilty of an act of injustice, not only to ourselves, but to the community at large; we virtually become accessaries to the offence; and while we suspend the vengeance of the law, we neglect a duty which it is incumbent on us

to

to fulfil. These arguments at length prevailed; and M^r Frazer consented that I should go to the police-office, to make known my complaint, and endeavour to procure some redress.

I went immediately to Bow-street, and made my case known to one of the clerks, with whom my former visit had made me acquainted. He expressed great surprise at hearing the ill-treatment we had met with, and promised his assistance to procure the restitution of what we had lost, if it was in the possession of the runners. This assurance gave me infinite satisfaction; for I now supposed it was very probable, that the officers had taken away our clothes and papers to search for counterfeit money, but as they were disappointed in that object, I concluded I should have them restored. After waiting

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ing a considerable time at the office, I was told, that my business could not be done that day, but I must call early the next morning, when I might expect to hear some intelligence of what I was wanting.

On the following day, I went to the office according to my orders, and was informed by the clerk, that as the articles we had lost were not in possession of the runners, a warrant would be granted me to search the house where we lodged, as it was very probable that our landlord was the thief, and had invented the accusation against the runners, to deter me from making any endeavours to get the stolen goods restored.

When the warrant was drawn out, I proceeded, accompanied by two of the runners, to my lodgings, and immediately informed

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informed the landlord of our business with him. At first he affected not to credit what we said, and boasted much of his honesty and reputation. But when we proceeded to put the warrant into execution, he altered his tone, and falling upon his knees, confessed himself to be the thief. On this discovery I demanded the immediate restitution of our property, and threatened him with the utmost severity of the law, in case of a refusal. This demand was instantly complied with, and the only difficulty that remained was, how to dispose of the culprit. Though I was highly exasperated against him, I was not inclined to make his offence a subject for prosecution, because the punishments annexed to crimes by the English code of laws, did not exactly square with my sentiments of moral justice. I therefore,
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with the approbation of M^r Frazer, agreed to drop the prosecution, on condition that the landlord paid all the expences we had already incurred, and suffered us to remain in his garret, until we could procure another convenient lodging.

Whilst we were thus fortunate in vindicating ourselves from a charge that threatened our lives, and procuring the restitution of our property, on which all our hopes, and the expectation of better days, were built, our tranquillity and peace was again assailed by the malice of our landlord, who could ill brook the indignity and dishonour his reputation had sustained. He was one of those beings, whose habitual rancour and malignity can be assuaged neither by kindness nor forgiveness, but who, on the contrary, are
inflamed

inflamed to desperation by the discovery of their crimes, and resent punishment less than they do lenity.

Amidst the melancholy catalogue of crimes, which the nature of man has engendered, or his habits confirmed, which society has produced, or manners established, the philanthropist must deplore, with mournful indignation, that accumulative depravity which marks the progress of vice, and forms the most detestable feature in its picture. Clemency, perhaps too frequently, forgets the line of demarcation which the safety of the community requires ; and modern justice, by an opposite error, often makes us overlook the crimes of offenders, to pity the rigour and severity of their punishment. The cause of moral equity is benefited by neither. I will, however, indulge

dulge the pleasing, ardent hope, that reason, and the progress of knowledge, may, in time, teach us to discriminate between the baneful extremes of mistaken clemency and sanguinary justice; and we may learn that no crimes are venial, nor any of so heinous a magnitude, but they may be expiated, and the offender restored to his rank in society.

CHAPTER V.

AS soon as the horrors of Newgate and the Old Bailey were removed from the eyes of our landlord, as soon as he was freed from the apprehension of visiting Bridewell or the hulks, he began to revolve in his mind schemes for revenge, and to employ those arts which disappointed malice is ever ready to suggest. He possessed a considerable share of sagacity and cunning, and was very expert to appropriate it to the prosecution of his own ends. Indefatigable in his efforts, he was not to be discouraged by defeat, nor vanquished by danger. But he could vary his modes of attack according to circumstances, and, with a celerity peculiar to revenge, he could profit

fit by his mistakes, and convert his failures into advantages. He was an adept in the science of hypocrisy, yet he wore its garb with such ease, that a superficial observer would have suspected that it was rather the effect of nature than of art or practice. Such was the man our lenity had made an enemy.

Some days after we had recovered our property, and recommenced our usual course of life, I observed, with great uneasiness, a considerable alteration in the conduct of M'Frazer. Far from treating me with his wonted friendship, he behaved towards me with the utmost coolness and reserve, and would scarce deign to take the least notice of me. He often spent the greater part of the day with the landlord, and when at night he returned to our garret, he would retire to rest without

without interchanging a single word. I was astonished and grieved at this alteration in his conduct, but as I could not accuse myself of any breach of friendship on my part, my pride refused to permit me to inquire into the motives of his behaviour. I was conscious of my own integrity, and should have been happy to learn what part of my conduct gave M^r Frazer offence, but my spirit would not suffer me to complain.

Our landlord one morning entered our garret, and, with a penitential countenance, and whining accent, began to express his sorrow and contrition for what had happened, declaring that he should never be happy as long as he lived, unless he had an opportunity of making us some recompense for the injury he had done us.

I was

I was little inclined to trust, and still less to accept his proffered service, judging, that though his assurances might proceed from a good motive, it was more advisable to act with caution towards him, than to put implicit confidence in his protestations. Besides, to accept any favours from a person of his description, was irreconcilable to my notions of independence. I, therefore, in a manner equally wide from the warmth of acknowledgment or the coolness of disdain, thanked him for his offers, which, I said, were perfectly unnecessary, as our situation in life precluded the desire of superfluous enjoyments, and our endeavours supplied all our wants.

“No offence, I hope,” answered the landlord; “for I am sure, gentlemen, I meant none. I only thought that it
might

might perhaps be in my power to do you some service, as you seem to be a little out at elbows: however, when you think fit to command me, I shall be happy to serve you, though you are pleased to slight me at present."

"I do not slight you," said M'Frazer; nor have I any reason to be dubious of your sincerity, but as I may soon be obliged to put it to the test, I shall reserve my thanks for that opportunity."

After some reciprocal compliments between the landlord and M'Frazer, the former withdrew, leaving me astonished at his effrontery, and unable to unravel the mysterious suspicions, which his officious zeal for our service created in my mind. I could no longer maintain my reservedness, but communicated to M'Frazer the doubts and fears which I

harboured; and entreated him, for his own sake as well as mine, to be on his guard, lest he should become a dupe to the specious artifices of a man, whose friendship proceeded from a very questionable motive.

“ You may think or act as best pleases yourself,” answered M’Frazer, peevishly ; “ but I have no occasion for your admonitions: you therefore bestow them in vain.—My own prudence, my own wisdom, and my own opinion, shall be my only guides; and, to save you the trouble of further discourse, it is my desire that you should be silent.”

“ You have no occasion to be displeased, Mr. M’Frazer, for it is neither my inclination nor intention to give advice where it would be disagreeable. I however think that the length of our acquaintance

quaintance may justify what I have said, though I cannot so readily find an excuse for you."

"Reserve your conversation for the entertainment of some other company: if you forget the distinction between yourself and me, Hector M'Frazer will remember it, and also teach you to respect it."

"Then may Hector M'Frazer for ever feast his memory with glorious distinctions, glut his fancy with ideas of his own importance and rank, and riot amidst the pompous inanity, which arrogance and pride has created, which folly and ignorance has matured, and which prejudice and vanity has sustained.—Yes! vain, fastidious man! I know I was once your servant!—Your menial servant!—Does the word gratify your ear? But where now exists the mighty distinction?"

In what does your superiority consist? In virtue, in talents, or abilities? Trust me, I think not contemptuously of your endowments, but I should act contemptuously towards myself, did I draw a parallel between your own and mine."

A pause of a few minutes succeeded this last speech. M'Frazer's anger seemed too big for words to express. At length, assuming a threatening aspect, he replied:

"Rascal! I command you to be silent!"

"You may command, but you cannot enforce obedience. If threats supply the place of reason, and abuse the want of argument, it is true, indeed, that I had better reserve my conversation for the entertainment of some other company."

I then took up my hat, and, without waiting to hear M'Frazer's reply, went
out

out of the house: My mind was in that state of distraction, which, though often felt by human nature, is scarcely within the power of human capacity to describe.

It was noon-day when I sallied abroad in a paroxysm of anger and madness. I was ignorant whither I was going: my steps were directed rather by instinct than design, and though I retained the sense of avoiding danger, the faculty of receiving pleasure was gone. The conflicting passions that agitated my mind, banished thought and reflection, and insanity seemed to have usurped the empire of my soul. I traversed the streets at a furious pace, but often repeating my walks, over the same ground, I did not get to any great distance from my deserted abode. In this state, my exertions produced nei-

ther hunger nor fatigue ; nature refused to perform her functions, but maniac vigour animated and supported me.

At length, however, I was roused from my fit of insensibility by the voice of one those itinerants, who, in the vicinity of the theatres, are well known by their incessant solicitations on passengers to purchase their play-bills. It was a female who accosted me. Her voice was plaintive and melancholy, and her importunity spoke the genuine language of distress. Her garb was tattered, and scarcely afforded a protection from the inclemency of the weather ; and her countenance was pale and dejected. Want, misery, and disease, were legibly numbered in her train, and fancy might add guilt or misfortune to the catalogue. I felt a secret, horrid pleasure in viewing
this

this miserable being, whose appearance forced the conviction on my mind, that there existed a creature more wretched than myself ; nay, whose very comforts of life, were analogous to my most bitter distresses. I was then ashamed of my weakness ; and turning to the female who had thus powerfully attracted my attention, I purchased a bill for each theatre, taking care to bestow a little more than her demand, to recompense her for the useful lesson she had taught me.

My mind was now as much at ease as it was possible for it to be, after the agony and perturbation I had undergone. My passion, my distraction, and confusion, had subsided ; and a calm, which approximated to the temperature of reason, succeeded in their place. At first I thought to return to my garret, and endeavour,

deavour, by conciliatory measures to dissipate the anger and resentment of M'Fraser. But when I reflected on the insult I had recently suffered, and the prior alteration in his behaviour, I was soon diverted from my intention. His conduct appeared rather to be the effect of premeditation, than of sudden anger; and the more I endeavoured to assign a probable cause for it, the more I was exasperated against him. To be treated with insolence and contempt, and branded with the epithet of rascal, were not to be passed over with silent disdain, or humble submission. My disposition was little suited to bear the one, and my conduct as little merited the other. Proud in the consciousness of my own integrity, I felt a reluctance to submit to the fanciful superiority of M'Fraser, who might again assert

assert his odious distinction, and again libel my honest reputation with his scurrilous reproaches.

At this time I had in my possession the two guineas which were given me by Mr. Launcey ; but as I considered that that sum did not, in strict justice, belong wholly to myself, I determined to apply only one of them to my own use, and reserve the other until I had an opportunity of giving it to M^r Frazer, without humbling my spirit by an immediate interview, which, I thought, would have too much the appearance of cringing meanness and disingenuous submission, to be productive either of honour or advantage. I had also five shillings remaining from the produce of some pieces I had sold ; and that sum I resolved to employ

on the evening's entertainment at one of the theatres.

The *Revenge*, by Dr. Young, and *Cibber's Double Gallant*, were the performances of the night. I readily preferred the tragedy ; and willing to enjoy a good play in a good situation, I chose the critical region of the pit, rather than the cheaper exaltation of the gallery.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER VI.

AS I had never been in a theatre before, I had very little idea of the grandeur and magnificence, which is displayed in the first dramatic temple in the British empire. At my first entrance, my sight was dazzled and astonished with the prodigious exhibition of ornaments and decorations, which are artfully planned out to contribute to the gratification or convenience of the votaries of pleasure. I imagined myself transported to an oriental palace: all appeared to me like enchantment or romance; and the presence of wonder-working genii and beneficent fairies only was wanting, to complete and realize what fancy or inclination conceived.

Such were my first ideas. But, as I was seated a considerable time before the performance commenced, my extravagant admiration began to cool, and as the charm of wonder and novelty wore away, I became restless and impatient. My attention was, however, relieved by the appearance of the musicians, who, for upwards of a quarter of an hour, amused or distressed the audience with tuning their instruments. During this preparatory employment, my ears were assailed with every discordant sound, that fiddles, flutes, clarinets, hautboys, trumpets, french-horns, drums, &c. could produce. I still, however, expected, that the harmony of the concert would make ample amends for the discord of the preparation; and that my organs of hearing would be fully repaid for the pain they had

had undergone, by the pleasure they would receive. But how was I disappointed, when I found, that, in this populous orchestra, noise supplied the place of harmony, and confusion of sounds was mistaken for symphony. The cat-calls of the gallery were scarce more disagreeable to my ears, than the *adagios*, *largos*, and *prestos* of this formidable band, who murdered composition and expression, and in whose hands Corelli or Handel, were as dull as Burney or Boyce.

The curtain at length drew up, and Zanga made his appearance amidst a storm of thunder, lightning, and applause. My expectations were now at their highest pitch. The dark and gloomy countenance of Zanga, his fierce and vengeful aspect, his solemn and melancholy gait, filled

filled me with rapture and astonishment. Here, I inwardly exclaimed, is an actor worthy the poet; who feels the strength of the character he represents, and who will merit the applause which the audience so eagerly bestow. I augured erroneously. This great actor's qualifications were chiefly of a personal nature, and he was very deficient in judgment and discrimination. At first, his ranting tone of voice and sardonic grin impressed me with a favourable idea of his talents and powers; but the frequent repetition of similar gestures, without attention to time or circumstance, and a disagreeable bombastic monotony, soon convinced me of his inability to represent the pride that pervades, the hypocrisy that guides, and the malice that agitates the soul of Zanga.

The gentle, the artless Leonora, was a modish coquette, who seemed more afraid for her tinsel finery, than for her innocence and reputation: and the great, the invincible, the omnipotent Alonzo, was the counterpart of his mistress—a coxcomb warrior, whose manners and habiliments were fitter for the toilet than the camp. Don Carlos, Don Alvarez, and Manuel, were properly associated as foils to the principal characters; nor did the merit of the handmaid, Isabella, obscure the excellence of her mistress Leonora.

A dance followed the tragedy; and a serio-comic pantomime concluded the evening's entertainment. An old gentleman, who sat near me, was very lavish of his encomiums on this last spectacle, which, he declared with an oath, was the grandest and most sublime exhibition
that

that was ever presented on any stage, and had cost a sum, which, as it exceeds the revenue of many noblemen, I shall forbear to mention. I did not readily assent to the praise which my neighbour so liberally bestowed on this performance, for to my mind, it did not convey a single trait either of the grand or sublime, but, on the contrary, a great many of vulgar wit and low buffoonery. The *dramatis personæ* of this wonderful exhibition, consisted of wizzards and witches, nymphs and swains, devils and cupids, gods and goddeffes, horses and elephants, the deities of Homer, and the priests of Zoroaster. The plot of this pantomime was unravelable, and the catastrophe miraculous; but the agency of the divinities smoothed these difficulties, and amply gratified the wonder-loving audience.

It

It was near midnight when I quitted the theatre, infinitely displeased with what I conceived to be its prostitution. I had tasted nothing since the morning, and my stomach now began to call loudly on me to fill up its vacancies. I therefore directed my steps to one of those eating-houses, where hackney-coachmen, and footmen on board wages, are nightly regaled with houghs and shins of beef. After I had satisfied my appetite with three-penny-worth of that food, and a pint of porter, I was preparing to depart in search of a lodging, when my attention was excited by a terrible outcry of thieves and murder in the street, which seemed to proceed from some females in great distress.

I immediately ran to the spot from whence the cries proceeded, and seeing
half

half a dozen females engaged in a furious combat against one man, I endeavoured, by force and argument, to effect a reconciliation between them. But my interposition, far from answering any good end, served only the more to exasperate the women, and three of them quitting the wretch with whom they were engaged, attacked me with such fury, that in a few minutes, the skin was almost entirely pared off my face, by the formidable nails of one of the viragos, who, during the battle, continued incessantly to scream out thieves and murder.

The watch, at length, came to our assistance, and we reciprocally committed each other to the custody of the guardians of the night, who immediately conducted us to the watch-house, to lay our separate complaints before the constable. This underling-

underling-magistrate was seated on an elevated armed chair; before him stood a table, on which was placed a tankard of porter, a couple of tobacco pipes, and a folio volume, which, I suppose, recorded the transactions of the night. His head was covered with a red woollen night-cap; and a pair of spectacles, with broad black rims, added importance to his visage. A large *roquelaure* protected him from the cold; and the staff, or bludgeon, of office, graced and supported his right arm.

As soon as we were placed in order by the side of the table, the constable called to one of the women, to hear what she had got to say for herself, and forbid more than one person to speak at the same time.

“ I will advance nothing in behalf of

my

my character," said the female, who opened the prosecution, " because, I believe, Sir, you are already well acquainted with it, and are an honest man, who will hurt no poor woman for getting her bread in an honest way. Now your honour must understand, that we women were walking in a quiet and peaceable manner, neither obstructing man nor beast, when the tallest of these bloody-minded villains came up to us, and attempted to rob us. Oh! you hardened, black-faced finner!"

Here she fell into a violent fit of hysteric laughter, which terminated in a swoon, and for some time put a stop to our examination. I was seriously alarmed at this accident, and cursed myself for intermeddling with other people's concerns, since the continuance of her fit caused me to entertain

entertain apprehensions for her recovery.

At length, however, she was restored to her senses, with the assistance of a copious draught of geneva, which one of her associates poured down her throat, whilst another chafed her temples with some of the same restorative balsam, and practised the usual remedies that are prescribed on such occasions.—She then proceeded.

“ The monsters have given me my death’s blow ! But no matter ! My ghost will revenge my poor murdered carcass, and haunt the villains till they are ready to swing ! Your worship must know, that when we screamed out for help, this other cut-throat rascal came to the assistance of his partner, and would most certainly have robbed and murdered us all ; but, blessed be God ! the watchmen came
to

to our relief, and secured the thieves before they could effect their bloody purpose. Now this, please your worship, is the whole truth of the matter, as I hope to be saved."

"And may we all be damned," corroborated her associates, "if she has not spoke the truth, and nothing but the truth."

"Very clear evidence," cried the constable; "but let us hear what the defendants have got to say for themselves; perhaps their story may alter the case, though, I must confess, I rather doubt it. But I shall not state my opinion until I have heard both sides of the question, as it is my duty and desire to do. So you, Mr. Tarpawling, speak next."

"If so be, that it is my turn to speak now," said my fellow-prisoner, whose
dress

drefs bespoke him a sailor, " you will find
 my story to be a very different one from
 that there wench's. I had been taking a
 cruise, Mr. Constable, to see an old
 sweetheart, that lives in one of the great
 houses in what-d'ye-call'um square; and
 was homeward-bound to the coast of
 Wapping, jogging under easy sail, when
 I was overtaken, about a couple of cables'
 lengths from this place, by these here
 termagants. At first, they were pleased
 to be mighty civil; and one of them
 hailed me, and said, how do you do to-
 night, my love? Thank you for your kind
 word, mistress, answered I, but I believe
 you have mistaken your vessel. By this
 time they began to board me, and one of
 them wanted to overhaul my watch. But
 avast there, said I, none of your sharkish
 tricks with me, or I'll bilge your upper
 works,

works, so you had best sheer off in time. Words, however, had no effect upon them, for first one and then another came atwart my hawse ; and though I luffed for one, and bore away for another, still they continued their manœuvres, till at length, they all closed round about me, when a smart engagement ensued between us. I believe I have given some of them a mark to remember me, though the weight of their fists convinced me they were not all women, notwithstanding they cried out murder so shrilly.

“ Oh! you audacious villain!” interrupted the female speaker, “ do you think we are going to satisfy your impudent curiosity?”

“ Wring your swab in your own birth,” continued the sailor, “ a foul tongue does not make a fair heart. I have failed
fifteen

fifteen years along with admiral Gunnel, and nine years I have been one of his bargemen, but never in my life was I called worse than my lad, or shipmate. Learn, mistress, to keep your tongue within your teeth, or you will run a chance of being keel-hauled, as I have seen your betters before to-day."

"Be silent, I command you!" exclaimed the constable, "I cannot understand one word in ten you say. You might as well talk Hebrew or Irish, for any thing I can learn by your discourse. But I suppose you are one of those cunning ignoramuses, as we law-people call them."

"I don't know what you mean by ignoramuses," rejoined the tar; "but I suspect it is the law-term for a sailer, and as this young man here does not look much like an ignoramus, you, perhaps, will

be better able to understand him than me."

As the constable then signified his willingness to hear my account of the affair, I repeated what I have already related, and confirmed the evidence of the sailor, respecting the sex of three of our assailants, whose female garb ill disguised their masculine features, and whose arms had left proofs of their virility on various parts of my body.

When I had finished my narrative, the constable demanded to know, if any of us had any thing more to say, by way either of accusation or defence? and as we all replied in the negative, he proceeded to sum up the evidence.—

"I have been five years," continued the constable, counting the lustrum with his tobacco-pipe upon the table, "in the office

“ Since I now hold ; and I dare say you will all allow, that in that time, I must have acquired a considerable portion of knowledge and experience in my calling.”

“ Certainly ! certainly !” repeated the females, with much emphasis ; “ and no doubt your honour will make a good use of it in the present case.”

“ I have had five years’ practice in this business,” continued the constable ; “ and I think my understanding is not like a sieve, that runs out as fast as it takes in. But for the matter of that, ‘ self-praise is no commendation,’ and my duty is to execute justice. I am none of your long-winded, great-talking folks ; yet, perhaps, I know as much as the best of them, and should make as good a judge as either justice——, or alderman —— ; but ‘ comparisons are odious,’ and as the justice and al-

derman are what we law-people call *incognita*, I might as well have compared myself with a common parish-clerk as with either of them, for any thing you know of their merits. Take my word for it, I am better able to accommodate your differences, than either the alderman or his colleague ; but remember I must——.”

Here he patted the palm of his right hand with the fore-finger of his left ; and after waiting some time, in expectation that his palmistry would be noticed, he was proceeding to explain its import, when he was interrupted by my fellow-prisoner.—

“ I understand you,” said the tar, “ your fingers neither talk Hebrew nor Irish ; but I am not fool enough to swop my money for either your law or justice. I have not weathered so many bitter gales, to
part

part with my money to a land-shark. A sailor is not so great a ninny as he is generally taken to be, or at least you will not find me one of that description. I would therefore recommend you, without any more delay, to conclude the business fairly and squarely. But, recollect, I'll pay no fees, I won't part with my money."

"You have no occasion," interrupted the constable, foaming with indignation, "to be so hasty in your conclusions, Mr. Sailor! I would have you to know, a man of my capacity and dignity is not to be insulted in the execution of his office by a dirty tarpawling like you: and, let me tell you, the law would punish you for your behaviour; so you had better make an apology for your conduct, or, perhaps,

perhaps, you shall have reason to repent your folly as long as you live."

The sailor answered this terrible threat with a half-smile-half-grin, and disdaining to make any verbal reply, he suffered the man of justice to proceed with his harangue.—

"If I was not a good-natured man, willing to accommodate your differences, and to hinder you from bringing matters to a conclusion, I would not take the trouble I do. Depend upon it, another man would have had you in irons long before this time. But, for my own part, I always like to give people time to consider; for then they cannot lay any blame at my doors, if they are sent to Newgate, as I have known to have been the case, with both the accuser and the accused, before to-day.

to-day. You may perhaps think this odd, but, let me tell you, I have known instances, where both parties have been sent to the hulks, and moreover, thought themselves very happy that they escaped transportation: for, whatever they might think at first, they were all ready to alter their tone, when the judge told the jury he believed them to be all guilty alike. Now I would therefore advise you to shake hands, and make the matter up; and when you have paid the watchmen for their trouble, you may all depart about your business."

"Nothing can be more reasonable," cried the women in one voice; "and we are all willing to agree to it, provided the gentlemen will only contribute their shares."

The sailor and I positively refused to

agree to this proposal, as we chose rather to submit to a temporary inconvenience, than to a degrading imposition. The females, however, entertained very different ideas; and finding our obstinacy invincible, they took upon them to satisfy the demands of the guardians of the night. We were now set at liberty, and as it was almost day-light, I determined rather to walk the streets, than go in quest of lodgings at such an unseasonable hour.

CHAPTER VII.

I HAD not got many yards from the watch-house, before one of my late antagonists came running after me, and laying hold of my arm, desired to have a few minutes' conversation with me. I was greatly surprized at her request, and the earnestness with which she repeated it; but before I could either grant or refuse her demand, she asked me if my name was Henry?

“ Yes.”

She paused a few minutes, still grasping my arm, and viewing me with eager attention. I was rivetted to the spot where I stood: I dreaded my own suspicions, and dared not to ask the question, which would dissipate or confirm them.

"Willoughby," resumed my interrogator, "is your surname?"

"It is."

"Oh villain! villain!"

My doubts and fears were confirmed: it was Mrs. Lamefly who accosted me. The ravages of time, and her dissolute course of life, had caused so great an alteration in her person, that it was impossible I should have recognised her. But her voice and her manners were still the same, and she still continued to cherish the same implacable spirit of malice and enmity towards me.

"Have I discovered you?" cried she, in a tone of exultation; "are my eyes doomed again to behold you? Accursed monster! You are more hateful to my sight than hell itself could be! I detest mankind! but I abhor and detest you of
all

all mankind the most ! I would glory in the most cruel and lingering punishments, I would endure them with pleasure, if I did but know that they were also inflicted upon you !”

She stopped for want of breath. I was unable to make any reply to her imprecations, or withdraw myself from her grasp. I was fascinated by the horror of her countenance, and knew not how to act, to extricate myself from her clutches. I was afraid if I attempted to use violence, that her associates, who were at no great distance, might come to her assistance, and I should be able to make very little resistance against their united attack. As long as she abstained from force, I could consider her curses only as the ravings of madness and disappointment. They might appal me, but they could not

66

injure

injure me. There was another motive that urged me to listen to her : I was desirous to learn what had become of her husband ; whether he was still alive, or if his life had expiated his offences. I would fain have made these enquiries, and added others respecting her own situation. But the savage fury of her looks, convinced me, it would be dangerous to propose questions, which would bring to her recollection the scenes of her past life, and serve only still more to irritate her. I therefore relinquished my design of making any enquiries after her husband or herself, and waited patiently till she recovered her breath, when she proceeded :

“ Did you think I had forgot you ? or do you think you can ever be effaced from my memory ? No ! brutal monster ! I have remembered you, and will remember you !

you! I thought I had long ago rid the world of a viper; but now I will make sure of it!"

As she spoke these last words, she aimed a blow at my breast with a butcher's knife. I fortunately perceived her intention, and warded off the stroke. She again attempted to stab me, and again I defeated her design. Furious with disappointment, she exerted her whole strength against me, and repeated her blows with such rapidity, that I could no longer ward them off. My left arm was wounded in several places, and I received a slight cut in my breast. At length, however, I wrenched the instrument of destruction from her hand, and extricated myself from her grasp. My exertions and loss of blood, had nearly exhausted my strength: I was scarce able to walk: and when I
had

had retreated a few paces, I found myself so weak, as to be obliged to sit down on the pavement. I still held the knife in my hand, and determined with it to protect or avenge my life, should the tigress again attack me. She did not venture to renew the encounter, but thinking her vengeance complete, she hastened to rejoin her associates.

On examination, I found my wounds to be less dangerous than I first suspected. The knife had penetrated the fleshy part of my arm in two or three places; but, as the blood ceased to flow, I conjectured that none of the arteries were wounded. I then bound my arm with a handkerchief, and finding myself able to walk, I went in search of a surgeon to dress my wounds.

It was now broad day-light, and having got my arm dressed, I began to consider
what

what plan would be proper for me to pursue. I once thought to go to my friend Mr. Launcey, and put myself under his protection. But when I reflected how much I was already indebted to him, and the little prospect I had of ever being able to repay the obligation, I relinquished the design, and determined to abstain from visiting him till my wounds were healed. My objections against returning to M'Frazer were of still greater magnitude. From him I could expect no pity or compassion. If he did not openly triumph in my misfortune, it was more than probable, he would secretly rejoice at it. He might affect to condole with me, without feeling any other sensations than the malignant pleasure which envy derives from the sufferings of its victim.

As my finances demanded the strictest
economy,

economy, I procured a lodging in one of those streets, where, remote from the splendid palaces of the great, poverty has erected her humble dwellings. In a few weeks, my arm was entirely healed, and I began to think of making some enquiries after M^r Frazer. Sober reflection had dissipated my resentment, and I was eager to renew our friendship.

I determined, however, first to pay a visit to Mr. Launcey, and acquaint him with the particulars of our quarrel. I thought I might safely rely on his good offices to effect a reconciliation between us, should my own endeavours to attain that end prove fruitless. At all events, I judged it of great importance to my future welfare, to secure his approbation and esteem. His advice and assistance, I thought, might be of the greatest utility to

to me. I admired, I almost venerated, his character; and, far from considering my esteem for him as the imperfect growth of a day, I regarded it as the mature production of years. I looked upon him as a Mentor, whose care would foster, and whose experience would guide me. He would apply his knowledge of the world to my service, and teach me to shun the rocks of ignorance and vice.

These were the reflections that determined me to visit the hospitable roof of Mr. Launcey.—After the first ceremonials of salutation were over, I was astonished, instead of a hearty welcome, which I expected to have met with, to perceive he treated me with a coolness almost bordering on the confines of disdain. The empty compliments of cold civility were ill suited to the warm affection I entertained
for

for him. But I valued his friendship too much to part without an explanation. I determined, if possible, to learn what part of my conduct had given him offence: I suspected that M Frazer had misrepresented our quarrel, and perhaps accused me of being the author of it. My conjectures were interrupted by Mr. Launcey.—

“You affect,” said he, “to wonder at the alteration in my behaviour towards you: but your own heart must tell you the cause, why I am thus distant and reserved. If you come with the intention to vindicate yourself from that load of infamy which, at present, unhappily is attached to your character, I will most willingly hear what you have got to advance in your defence; and happy shall I be, if you can wipe away the stigma that adheres to your reputation.”

Confounded

Confounded at this terrible exordium, I was unable to make any reply to it. My heart did not reproach me : but how could I vindicate myself ? I knew not what was alleged against me ; and, though I suspected M^r Frazer to be my accuser, I was unable to draw any satisfactory conclusion as to the nature of his accusation. The affair of our quarrel was certainly not so heinous an offence, as to have been the sole cause of Mr. Launcey's resentment.—He perceived my hesitation, and proceeded :

“ To the vice of ingratitude, you have added the crime of revenge. Not content with abandoning your friend, you have betrayed him to his enemies, and he now languishes in a prison to gratify your malice and resentment. I once thought better of you : I judged you incapable

capable of such accumulated villany.—But you have deceived and disappointed me: you have added one to the catalogue of those whom I detest.—I despise the ingratitude of man; but, his revenge awakens other feelings.—It is the midnight foe, that lurks unseen, unheard, and unsuspected: it is the foul fiend whose god is cruelty, whose heart is malice, and whose soul disdains to cherish one single atom of charity, of pity, or of forgiveness.—Inform me, Sir, of the motives of your coming, [or pollute not my house with your presence.]

“ I am ignorant of the meaning or cause of your reproaches: I know not what has given occasion to this accusation. I may, perhaps, have acted with impropriety, but I am guiltless of the heavy crimes you lay to my charge. Let me
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intreat you not to condemn me unheard, and without the means of defence, but inform me in what instance I have been ungrateful or guilty of revenge."

"Do you add falshood to ingratitude and revenge? Or do you think your pretensions to ignorance can deceive me?— But I will not trifle with you. M'Frazer is in prison, and it was you who betrayed him. You yourself can best explain the motives that occasioned so base an action; and I will readily admit whatever reasonable palliatives you can advance, to justify your conduct, or mitigate the infamy of your character."

I made no reply to these charges; but only waiting to inquire in what prison M'Frazer was confined, I set off to learn from himself the narrative of his misfortune, and the reason why he suspected me

to be the author of it. I had little doubt of being able to vindicate my character from the aspersions it laboured under, if I could only learn the grounds on which M'Frazer rested his accusation. I was confident, the evidence he could adduce against me was at most only presumptive, and as such, I should easily be able to controvert it.

When I arrived at the prison, and enquired for M'Frazer, I was conducted by one of the turnkeys to a squalid apartment, whose only furniture was a pallet-bed, a broken chair, and a disjointed table. A narrow window, firmly secured with iron bars, scarcely admitted the blessings of light and air; and the cold walls diffused a chilling vapour highly pernicious to health. The security of the prisoner seemed to have been the only
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object the architect had in view, when he built this miserable apartment. The convenience, the health and satisfaction of its unfortunate tenant, were subordinate to that consideration; and while the rigorous policy of the law provided for the safe custody of the debtor, it exposed him to sickness and discomfort, to pain and affliction.

Mr Frazer was lying on the pallet-bed; and, as I entered the apartment without making a noise, he did not perceive me until I was seated on the bed-side. We were both silent for a considerable time, and both seemed unwilling to commence the conference. I was astonished and grieved at the alteration in Mr Frazer's looks. He was pale and emaciated: famine and disease were marked on his countenance, and his eyes spoke
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the language of anguish and despair. At first he appeared uneasy at my presence, and beckoned me to begone. But when he found I was unwilling to obey his injunctions he raised himself from the bed, and accosted me thus :

“ Do you come here to insult my misery, and sport with my distress? Is it not sufficient that by your means I am a prisoner? But must I also be a spectacle to gratify your malice? 'Tis a poor triumph! a sorry victory!”

“ Think not, M'Frazer, that I come here to insult or offend you! was that my motive, I should indeed be worthy of all that has been alleged against me. But I come to seek justice for myself, to rectify the false opinion you have formed of me, and to tender you my services and assistance.”

“ I want not your services, nor will I accept them!”

“ Let

" Let me entreat you to think better of my offer. You are mistaken respecting me ! I am not the villain you imagine me to be ! Some one has deceived you, or you deceive yourself. If you will but investigate my conduct, you will find I have been belied, and my innocence will be manifested. But if you continue to cherish malicious prejudices, to condemn me unheard, and to reject what I may have to advance in my defence, before you are acquainted with its import, I must submit with patience to your will, and trust to time or accident the vindication of my character."

" Perhaps an investigation would only serve the more to blacken that character, the un sullied purity of which you are so anxious to assert."

" Trust me, Sir, I dare encounter the

strictest scrutiny, and am willing to undergo the severest test, to preserve that which I prize beyond my existence, beyond the gifts of fortune, or the hopes of happiness."

"If you are conscious of your own integrity, why do you disturb the solitude of a miserable being? Why do you seek to add to his infelicity, by your complaints, your reproaches, and your scorn? Suffer me, I beseech you, suffer me to be at peace; trample not on him you have overthrown!"

He uttered these words in a tone of voice that effectually disarmed my resentment. His inward anguish seemed too powerful for words to express; and though he endeavoured to proceed, involuntary sighs choked his voice. I was unwilling to interrupt him, as he seemed desirous

desirous to add something more; but, before he could recover himself, an old gentleman, whom I knew to be one of his former acquaintance and creditors, came into the apartment. At the sight of this person, M'Frazer's agitation subsided, and he became calm and collected. Turning towards me, he said, he was content, as I had now an opportunity to vindicate myself, if I was innocent of what he laid to my charge.

I entreated him to bring the matter to an issue, and not let me remain in suspense, when it was in his power to extricate me.

"You are acquainted with this gentleman," said M'Frazer.—"In his presence, I accuse you of being the person, who informed him of the place of my retreat, and who urged him to have me arrested."

"Your landlord, Mr. M'Frazer," said the gentleman, "was my informant: he laid the plan to have you arrested, and communicated it to your other creditors, who will all bear testimony to the truth of what I have said."

"It is enough!" exclaimed M'Frazer; "I have been duped by a villain, and my friend is innocent."

We wept, we embraced. The creditor was moved at the scene: he pitied our distress, and promised to use his endeavours to alleviate it. When he was gone, M'Frazer informed me, that when I parted from him, after our quarrel, he went and acquainted the landlord with all the circumstances that attended it, and begged his advice how he was to act. The landlord, after many protestations of friendship and esteem, recommended him

him to remain where he was, until he should hear some intelligence of me, and promised him every assistance in his power to render his situation agreeable and comfortable. M'Frazer then informed him of the disorder of his affairs, and stated the apprehensions he was under, lest my resentment should lead me to acquaint his creditors with the place of his concealment. These suspicions were artfully fomented by the landlord, who represented me as a person capable of the blackest treachery and ingratitude. He then proceeded to sift M'Frazer as to the nature and amount of his debts, the names and abodes of his creditors; and having learnt whatever was necessary for his purpose, he assured M'Frazer, that he need be under no apprehensions, as he doubted not but he should be able to advance

money sufficient to satisfy them all, should they find him out. This flattering promise soothed the anxiety of M'Frazer's mind, and he made no scruple to acquaint his new friend with every particular of his former life.

Three days M'Frazer enjoyed, without alloy, the pleasing delirium, arising from the promises and professions of his new friend. Happier prospects, as he thought, opened to his view, and society again was about to receive him. Though he distrusted the suspicions he entertained of me, he congratulated himself that I had left him, and attributed a part of his misfortunes, from the period I entered his service, to the perverse destiny that unceasingly attended me. On the fourth day the charm was broken: he was roused from his dream of happiness, and plunged into

into deeper wretchedness than before. Two bailiffs entered the house, arrested him at the suit of four of his principal creditors, and as the landlord refused to fulfil his promises, they immediately carried him to the ——— prison.

He remained here three days, without hearing any intelligence from the landlord, or being able to procure any sustenance than what the bounty of a fellow-prisoner supplied. The cold stone floor of a dismal apartment, during that time, was his only bed; for being unable to pay the keeper's fees, he was unworthy (to use the polite language of a prison) to sleep in a gentleman's bed. This inconvenience was, however, done away by the benevolent Launcey, who called at the prison on a visit of humanity, and perceiving M'Fraser among a multitude

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of other debtors, the philanthropist learnt from him the particulars of his misfortune; and having paid the keeper his demand, M^r Frazer was accommodated with the apartment wherein I found him; which, though doubtless a most uncomfortable one, was infinitely preferable to many in the same prison. Mr. Launcey then went to the landlord's, to bring M^r Frazer his wearing-apparel and books, and learn if he intended to abide by his promises to that unfortunate man. The landlord informed Mr. Launcey, that at present it was not in his power to become bail for M^r Frazer, but that he would exert his influence to procure his release, if the creditors would agree to mitigate their demands; and added, that M^r Frazer was indebted to me for his imprisonment.

Mr. Launcey then returned to the prison,

prison, and communicated this information to M'Frazer, who agreed with him in thinking that I was the person who had betrayed him. Two days after this, M'Frazer received a visit from the landlord, who again accused me of treachery, and to strengthen his accusation, affirmed, that I had been at his house, and even made a boast of my villany. This intelligence produced a wonderful effect on M'Frazer's spirits: he had hitherto supported his lot with firmness and resolution, but from this period his fortitude forsook him. He was unable to endure the contempt of the world, or bear up against its ridicule. His education had inspired him with erroneous ideas of his own importance, and that self-love which finds a place in the noblest hearts, occupied a large portion of his, and re-

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dered him miserable at afflictions, which other individuals would have disregarded or despised.

Such was the account I received from Mr. Frazer, and gathered from my own observations. I remained in the prison with him till the evening, endeavouring to dispel his melancholy, and to inspire him with fortitude and resignation. He seemed convinced of the truth of my arguments, but was unable to put them in practice: he acknowledged the weakness of his conduct, but asserted his inability to amend it. When I took leave of him for the night, he made me promise to return next day, as soon as I had waited on Mr. Launcey, and acquainted him with the agreeable discovery that had been made of the injustice done my reputation.

CHAPTER VIII.

IN the morning I waited on Mr. Laurencey. He received me with the same coolness and reserve as he had done the day before. But when I informed him of the circumstances which led to the detection of the landlord's villany, he testified his satisfaction by a hearty shake of the hand ; and assured me, that the pleasure he now felt at the manifestation of my innocence, amply counterbalanced the uneasiness he experienced, when he was compelled to charge me with treachery and baseness. He then proposed that we should both pay a visit to M^r Fraser, and endeavour, by our conjunct efforts, to cheer the hours of his imprisonment.

"If," said he, "we cannot dispel our friend's sorrow, we may at least be able to alleviate it. By a thousand methods we may condole with, and amuse him, and while we barricade the avenues of fruitless and corroding grief, we may open the sources of hope and consolation. We may paint to his imagination the probability of happier days, and encourage him to philosophize on the troubles and misfortunes of life. Should his own reason and inclination second our endeavours, I doubt not but we shall be able to reconcile him to his situation, to dissipate his gloom, and restore his wonted serenity and cheerfulness."

I readily acquiesced with Mr Launcey's observations, and added, that I was in expectation some means would speedily occur, by which M^r Frazer would procure his liberation. My hopes were principally,

principally built on the promises of the creditor, whom I had seen yesterday, and whom I knew to be reputed a man of humanity and worth. Mr. Launcey seemed, however, inclined to distrust, what he styled, the vague professions of ostentatious benevolence.

“ Let us, however,” said he, “ suspend our judgment till we are better acquainted with the merits or faults of this personage. I, perhaps, augur erroneously of him: I would willingly think so; but experience tells me, that his hopes are built on a shallow foundation, whose only dependance is the promise of a creditor. I have long exerted my little powers in the service of the afflicted: I have endeavoured to sooth the sorrows of the unhappy; and if the success of my efforts has not always been adequate to my desire, I have gained some knowledge
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of the character of man, some insight into the springs of his conduct. Believe me, my young friend, 'tis a gloomy picture, calculated to inspire the attentive beholder with sentiments of abhorrence and disgust. I have seen promises neglected, and professions of friendship forgot. The tongue often utters what the heart intends not to execute.—I fear I dispirit you: I could wish to prove a lying prophet; but I cannot deceive you by fostering hopes, which I do not imagine will ever be realized. Compassion and generosity are specious terms, used alike by the miser or the profligate: but the practice of these virtues is confined to a narrow circle; an anonymous few, who wish not their charities to be divulged, and whose reward is the satisfaction

faction that results from a conscious discharge of their duty."

He spoke these last words with an emphasis peculiar to himself; they made a considerable impression on my mind; but, as we arrived soon after at the prison where M^r Frazer was confined, I had no opportunity of delivering my sentiments.

We found M^r Frazer greatly indisposed. He was unable to rise from his bed, and complained of a feverish heat, and violent pain in his head, which had kept him awake the greater part of the night. His spirits were quite sunk with his illness, and when we endeavoured to enter into conversation with him, he appeared unable, from internal weakness, to answer our enquiries. Mr. Launcey proposed to send for a physician; and suggested, in a manner that did honour to his humanity,

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that

that he would defray the expence: but the disapprobation M'Frazer expressed of that design, obliged him to relinquish it.

Towards noon, M'Frazer appeared somewhat better, and discoursed with us on the situation of his affairs, without exhibiting any symptoms of uneasiness or regret. We strove to prevail on him to take some refreshment, but he answered us, that he had no desire for food, and was afraid that his stomach was not strong enough to bear any. He thanked Mr. Launcey for all the kindness and friendship he had shewn him, and added, that he had no hopes of ever being able to repay the obligations he owed him.

"I feel," said M'Frazer, "an inward decay, which no art can cure, and whose progress no medicaments can stay. I am not so far disgusted of life as to be anxious

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to quit it, nor am I so enamoured of its charms as to be solicitous to preserve it. I look forward with indifference and apathy. To me, death presents no horrors, life exhibits no allurements. Sickness and distress have wrought this alteration in my mind; they have taught me to weigh, in equal scales, the advantages and hardships of life.—To you, Willoughby, I have behaved with harshness and unkindness. I suspected you unjustly, and treated you as my enemy. But if you will consider the circumstances that induced me to suspect you, you will find I was deceived, and you will forgive me. Alas! it is not in my power to add more.”

I assured M^r Frazer of my perfect forgiveness, and told him that I yet expected to spend many happy days in his society.

“ Why,

“Why, my friend,” said Mr. Launcey, “do you suffer imaginary evils to distress you? Why do you give way to unavailing melancholy? Had you not better cherish and indulge the hope, that brighter prospects may speedily open to your view? Though misfortune has hitherto attended you, she may perhaps now forsake you, and her persecution may be at an end. But if you suffer despair and melancholy to reign sovereigns over your heart, though fortune should open to you her amplest stores of comfort and enjoyment, you would not be benefited by them—on you they would be bestowed in vain.”

M^r Frazer smiled, but made no reply.

“On you,” repeated Mr. Launcey, “they would be bestowed in vain. But let me ask you, why do you despair? Why do you abandon yourself to fruitless grief?”

grief? You may reply, you cannot stem the tide of adversity; you are unable to oppose its overwhelming torrent. But, I answer, you are capable of resistance, and ought not to submit without the most vigorous struggle. It is weakness, or folly, or madness, to think of resigning all claims to happiness, without making some efforts to retrieve it, some endeavours to recover it."

As Mr. Launcey uttered this last sentence, M'Frazer stretched his arm from under the bed-cloaths, and grasping the hand of his adviser, in a faint tone replied, that he was sensible of the truth of his remarks, but was too much exhausted to profit by them. He said, his strength and spirits were gone, and no struggles of his could recal them.

Mr.

1 Mr. Launcey then pressed him to have
 some medical advice, and urged in strong
 terms the danger of delay; but M^r Frazer
 again declined the proposal. At length,
 however, after much importunity, he
 agreed, that, if he was not better in the
 morning, a physician should be sent for.
 We also prevailed on him to drink a little
 warm wine and water, which Mr. Laun-
 ceys procured from a neighbouring pub-
 lic-house.
 We remained with him till the time of
 shutting up the prison. I would willingly
 have staid with him all night, but he ob-
 served with a smile, that the air of a
 prison was prejudicial to the strongest
 constitutions, and might possibly do me
 more harm than the tender's hold, or the
 regulations of captain Namur. He therefore
 positively refused to permit me to remain
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with him, and, as at that time, I did not apprehend him to be dangerously ill, I acquiesced with his desire.

On the morning of the following day, Mr. Launcey and I again repaired to the prison. We only came time enough to witness the last moments of M'Frazer's life. Our friend was in the agonies of death when we arrived. He was insensible of our care and attention; and, though Mr. Launcey immediately sent for a physician, all medical aid was in vain. M'Frazer expired in less than an hour after our arrival.

CHAPTER IX.

FROM this period I became a resident with Mr. Launcey. Under his care I pursued my literary studies with profit, and some degree of reputation; and I also spent my time in a manner most agreeable to my habits and inclination. I was placed beyond the pressure of want, and even accumulated a little stock, to supply the unforeseen exigencies of accident, or sickness. The generous disposition of my friend, anticipated and gratified my desires; he embraced every opportunity to render my situation comfortable, and seemed more anxious to secure my happiness, than to promote his own. As I became more acquainted
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with his character, the more reason I had to admire and esteem it: but my esteem did not flow from inconsiderate affection, nor was my admiration the effect of blind partiality. They resulted from experience and proofs, from repeated acts of continued and unabating friendship. At his instigation I undertook this narrative, and my labour was enlivened by his approbation. But, alas! too soon was I deprived of his assistance! too soon was I bereft of his advice!

Happy in the society, and under the protection of this worthy friend, near two years of undisturbed enjoyment rolled speedily away. So kindly, so humbly, were his favours dispensed, I scarcely conceived myself a dependant upon his bounty, I scarcely felt I was beholden to him for my support. When I wanted

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to express my gratitude, to acknowledge the obligations I owed him, he would gently rebuke me, and answer, that the pleasure he derived from my company amply repaid him. "Consider," he would say, "you contribute largely to my happiness and satisfaction; you enliven many an hour, which would otherwise hang heavy on my hands; you chase from my dwelling, melancholy and sadness, and your conversation tends to alleviate those bitter reflections, which too frequently steal upon my mind. It is therefore only justice that I should endeavour to make you some recompence; and how can I better do it, than by acting in such a manner as ensures my own enjoyment, and at the same time advances your's?"

The life of this singular man, was devoted to the exercise of benevolence, and
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the service of the unhappy. Though the smallness of his annuity, retained his charities within narrow bounds, yet he was an effectual benefactor to the distressed, by exerting his personal services in their behalf. His advice and service were always at their command, and often effected more than pecuniary aid could have done. Without the least mixture of pride, haughtiness, or ostentation, in his manners, he commanded respect and love; and in the haunts of misery, where he was well known, the most abandoned of mankind could bless the name of Launcey.

Towards the close of the second year of my residence with Mr. Launcey, he fell a victim to his excessive humanity. At that time, a fever, known by the name of the gaol distemper, raged in New-

gate, and daily carried off a number of its wretched inhabitants. On this occasion, the benevolent zeal of Mr. Launcey, prompted him to pay unremitted attention to the sick in that miserable mansion; and relying on the goodness of his constitution, he neglected to take those precautions, which are esteemed preservatives against contagious distempers. He caught the fever, and though every medical assistance was rendered him, he died in three days from its first appearance. In him, I lost a sincere friend, and an affectionate and judicious adviser.—His memory is dear to me, but I must draw a veil over my affliction, and repress the overflowings of my heart.

The suddenness of Mr. Launcey's death, prevented him making a will. He had, indeed, little to leave, but that little
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he intended to have bestowed upon me. The loss of his property did not give me much concern, I only lamented to think, that it had fallen into the hands of those, who during his life-time, had treated him with every species of barbarity and inhumanity, who had unceasingly sought his destruction, and endeavoured to effect his ruin. I was sorry that the little property of my friend, should fall into hands like these; and I lamented to think that his papers, which were intended for the instruction and benefit of mankind, should go into the possession of men, who, unacquainted with their value, would most probably commit them to the flames. I had, however, no remedy: the law was in favour of my adversaries, and I submitted with patience.

After Mr. Launcey's death, I took an

obscure lodging, and continued without interruption, though without any considerable degree of success, my profession of an author. The profits of my pen were not equal to my expenditure, and though I lived with the utmost frugality, I was obliged to broach the little store I had accumulated during my abode with Mr. Launcey. The melancholy that preyed on my spirits, pervaded my writings, and my employer (the Magazine editor) complained that I no longer gave satisfaction to his customers.

“Your essays,” said he, “like the homilies of the archbishop of Grenada, begin to flag; they want the pointed sharpness and critical asperity they formerly possessed, and are no longer mentioned but in terms of ridicule and contempt. The sorrowful is so predominant
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in your tales, that they no longer afford any entertainment to my readers; and I assure you, unless you retrieve your credit, I shall be obliged to employ some other person who can suit me better."

I promised to endeavour to amend the faults he complained of; and added, that my failure must be attributed to the agitation of my mind, not to any want of industry or care. In spite, however, of these professions, my next performances gave my employer as little satisfaction as my former ones had done, and he told me, he could afford to give no more than half the usual price for them. This information alarmed my pride; and I suspected that the editor undervalued my productions, in hopes that my necessities might urge me to let him have them at a

low rate. He was, however, disappointed, for I peremptorily refused to sell them except at the usual price, and as his obstinacy was equally invincible, we parted without coming to any agreement.

The principal source of my support was now cut off, and I had the mortification, after applying to several booksellers to find my productions uniformly rejected. My affairs grew daily more embarrassed; want stared me in the face, and despair presented to my mind, a frightful train of imaginary evils, which distressed me more, perhaps, than real calamities could have done. They shed their morbid influence over every thing I undertook, and defeated my best concerted designs: they prevented my exertions, and caused me to abandon myself to fruitless melancholy. I reflected on the misfortunes of

M'Frazer,

M^r Frazer, and dreaded to think how soon they might fall to my lot. As yet I was indebted to no person: it was not in the power of a rapacious creditor to deprive me of my liberty for his paltry gold. But still I knew not how long I might be able to preserve my independence; and as my little stock diminished, the prospect grew more dismal.

At length, wearied with repeated disappointments, I resolved to quit my native land, and seek the blessings of the fickle goddess in a foreign country. England no longer afforded me any prospect of support. I determined to visit France; and having acquired a knowledge of the language from my mother, which was afterwards improved by conversation with M^r Frazer, I thought I might be able to procure employment in Paris.

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For this purpose, I agreed with the captain of a vessel to work for my passage to Havre-de-Grace, from which place I could easily walk to Paris. So resolutely was I bent on the execution of this scheme, that I sold all my books, and converted into cash the greater part of my wearing-apparel, reserving only what I judged would be necessary for my journey. One afternoon, as I was going over Tower-Hill, to enquire of the captain when he expected the vessel would be ready to sail, I was stopped by a young man dressed in a genteel suit of mourning, who demanded if my name was Willoughby?

I answered in the affirmative, and at that instant discovered it was my friend and shipmate Monthermer who accosted me. After the first salutations of joy were over, Monthermer proposed we should
adjourn

adjourn to some private place ; and, as he had no fixed residence of his own, he readily agreed to accompany me to my lodgings.

When we arrived at my garret, Monthermer requested to be informed of the particulars of my escape from the hospital at Kingston, and also what had befallen me since that period. I immediately complied with his request, and concealed nothing from him, except my intention of visiting France, which I resolved not to acquaint him with, until every thing was ready for my departure.

It was late in the evening before I finished my narrative ; and as Monthermer suspected I had not had a very excellent dinner, he proposed that I should get something for our suppers ; desiring me, at the same time, not to be uneasy about

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paying

paying for it, as he hoped he had cash sufficient to supply us both. He then pulled out a purse containing twenty-two guineas, and some odd silver, and putting the whole of it into my hand, he entreated me to help myself to as much as I wanted. I was too much affected, at this act of friendship, to make any reply for some time ; at length, I thanked him for his kindness, and added, that though I certainly stood in need of money, I could not think of taking any from him, before I was well convinced he could spare it, without any inconvenience to himself.

“ Perhaps,” said Monthermer, “ you distrust my friendship, or are dubious of my honesty. I do not blame you for your suspicions : I however assure you they are ill founded, and you injure yourself, not me,

me, by harbouring them. Let us take some refreshment, and I will then relate the circumstances that have happened to me since we parted."

To this proposal I readily assented, and having procured some meat from a cook's shop, Monthermer and I made a hearty supper. When we had finished, I reminded him of his promise to relate what had befallen him since he left the *Bellona*. "You will then be freed from your suspicions," replied Monthermer, who began a relation of his adventures, as follows :

CHAPTER X.

“**W**HEN I returned on board the Bellona, and found you had made your escape from the hospital, my situation became more irksome, more intolerable than ever. I had no one to whom I could unbosom my griefs and distresses, or in whose conversation I could take delight. The noisy mirth of my shipmates increased, rather than repelled, the gloomy anguish of my mind, and fullen despair had almost extinguished those sparks of hope and expectation, which animate and cheer the wretched and oppressed. To exist was no longer desirable. Friendless and comfortless, bereft of all the enjoyments of liberty and life, I thought to escape from the malice and persecutions of fortune,

and

and seek, in the unknown regions of death, a cessation from misery and existence.—Sorrowful as the reflection was, that life was become a burden, and death the only prospect of release, still I had the consolation, in every stage of my misfortunes, to think, that fortune could not pursue me beyond the barrier of the grave, nor her accursed agents tear me from its awful sanctuary!—There the loud howling of the tempest is never heard, nor the hand of the oppressor felt!

“ But Bigotry has forged chains for our enslavement, and Superstition, her sister, endeavours to rivet them on our minds. I felt perhaps the influence of both, while I was unwilling to admit the authority of either. My mind fluctuated between the calls of inclination and justice : I doubted
whether

whether I had yet attained the acme of wretchedness, or whether I was placed beyond the reach of future enjoyment and usefulness—whether the misery of my situation could justify my intention, or whether I was responsible to myself alone for my existence.

“ ‘Dread Being!’ I exclaimed, ‘if thou dost exist, whose power my feeble imagination can ill define, and in whose eyes the oppressor and oppressed, the master and the slave, are alike; behold with pity, and direct the wandering steps of thy creature. Compassionate my sufferings, and temperate the draught of affliction to the measure of my fortitude and patience.’—Such was my prayer. My resolution was, however, fixed. I determined no longer to endure the pressure of tyranny and calamity. The day arrived on
which

which I resolved to bid farewell to the troubles, uncertainties, and expectations of life. I felt a degree of cheerfulness to which I had long been a stranger; and the thoughts of being so near the end of my journey, made me almost wish to quicken my pace, that I might arrive at the goal a few hours sooner than I first intended.

“ It happened on the morning, that our pinnace was ordered to proceed to Old Harbour, to impress the crews of some merchantmen that were taking in their lading at that port; and as I was stationed to the pinnace, I was obliged to go upon the expedition. When we arrived at Old Harbour, we went on board the different vessels, to search for men, but they had fortunately deserted their ships, and preserved their liberty by flight.

Our lieutenant, when he found the merchantmen abandoned by their crews, ordered us to pull for the landing place, concluding we should, at least, be able to pick up some stragglers at the village, or gain intelligence of the route they had taken.

“ After we came on shore we were divided into three parties, each under the command of an officer ; and whilst the other two searched the village, the party to which I belonged was directed to scour a parcel of negro-huts, that were about the distance of three quarters of a mile from the landing-place. The road to the negro habitations lay in the midst of a little forest of mangrove-trees, through which a swamp, dignified with the name of a river, slowly discharged its putrid waters into the ocean, leaving its noxious effluvia

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effluvia to generate and nurture the microscopic inhabitants of the air, of which myriads are scarce sufficient to reveal their existence to unassisted sight.

“ The heat of the day was excessive, and not a breath of air could penetrate the thickets by which we were surrounded. Faint, and wearied with fatigue, I lagged behind my shipmates, reflecting on the disappointments, the many and severe afflictions, that had fallen to my lot; and the solemn renunciation of my existence that I shortly intended to make. Amidst these reflections, I was separated from the view of my shipmates, by a sudden winding of the road; and though I was only a few yards distant from them, I conceived the idea, that it might be possible for me to make my escape. My hopes rekindled at this project, animated my

my spirits, banished weariness and fatigue from my limbs, and inspired me with an energy to act, and a promptitude to concert, what, at a less perilous season, I should have deemed impracticable. As no time was to be lost, I immediately struck out of the path, and hastening to the river, plunged myself up to the neck in its friendly waters, taking care to cover my head with the sedges that grew on its banks. In this disagreeable situation I remained near two hours, without hearing any thing of my shipmates, or daring to raise my head from its unpleasant position : but, as I began to think that they had returned to the landing-place, by some different route, I ventured to wade over to the opposite bank of the river, and again concealed myself beneath the sedges,

sedges, with which the place abounded.

"I had not been long beneath the shelter of my new covert, before I heard the trampling of feet, and plainly distinguished the voices of the lieutenant and officer, who commanded the party to which I belonged. They halted near the spot where I lay concealed, and, for some time, seemed to be consulting what steps they ought next to pursue.—'The rascal is not far off,' cried the officer; 'and we shall be sure to find him, if we only keep a good look-out; for dam'me I ha'nt been twenty yards from this spot, since I first lost sight of him.' The lieutenant replied, 'I wish I had my tarrier here, he would soon smell my gentleman out: but, perhaps the fellow is drowned.' 'Then,' interrupted the other, 'he

'he will be a rare morsel for the alligators, and our pursuer will be glad at the news.' A loud laugh followed this witicism, and a volley of oaths concluded their dialogue.

"To my inexpressible joy, they shortly afterwards departed, muttering vengeance, however, should they be so fortunate as to find me, and swearing to search the whole island, before they would suffer me to escape. I remained in my hiding-place until it was almost dark; and then concluding that I was no longer in any danger of being pursued, I forded the river, and followed the road, which, as I before said, led to the negro-village, from whence, it was my intention, to go over to the north side of the island, where I should be certain to meet with some ships in the merchants' service.

"You

" You have often remarked, and I believe with truth, that in the tropical regions, the moon shines with greater lustre and brightness, than in the milder zones. The purity of the atmosphere, perhaps, occasions the difference. On this evening, not a single cloud intercepted the rays of light, which diverged from the luminary of the night: every star glittered with unusual splendour, and every planet seemed a little moon. The cooling breeze that descended from the mountains, refreshed and strengthened my exhausted limbs: hope, and the enjoyment of new-acquired liberty, added vigour and efficacy to my bodily strength; and all the exhilarating ideas that fancy could create, were present to cheer and enliven my solitary peregrination. I passed through the negro village without interruption;

and,

and, having the lofty summits of the Blue mountains for my guides, I pursued my route, without making enquiries, or seeking any other path than the direct line to the mountains.

“The scenery around me was calculated to impress pleasing images upon my mind: my heart beat in unison with them, and readily admitted their genial influence. The vegetable world seemed revived, and breathed its fragrant odours to refresh the animal creation, yet languid or dispirited with the heat or toil of the day. The gently falling dew moistened and quenched the parched earth, and the brooks that distilled from the sides of the hills, could now wander through the vallies unabsoꝛbed. The rude song of the slave was chanted by a thousand echos, and his harsh music modulated by
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the breeze. Alas ! hard is the lot of that man, who is obliged to eke his hours of recreation from the scanty portion of time allotted to sleep and refreshment ! Yet cheerfulness was attendant on the song of the slave, and the loud laugh proclaimed him thoughtless of to-morrow.

“ I walked, without stopping to take any rest, all night, and about day-break, I found myself at the foot of the Blue mountains. I was excessively faint for want of food, as I had tasted nothing since the morning of the preceding day, and I was also much exhausted with the violent exertions I had made during the night. My care was now to find a place where I might satisfy my hunger, and rest sheltered from the scorching heat of the noon-day sun, that when evening came,
I might

I might recommence my journey fresh and vigorous.

“ With this intention, I followed the direction of a foot-path, which led me to a little hovel, sheltered beneath a grove of pimentos, and adorned with a garden, rich in all the luxurious productions of the torrid zone. Seeing no one near the hovel, I went in, and found only an old negro-woman, who was fanning a few embers, on which an earthen-pot was placed. The rest of its inhabitants were working in the plantation. At first, the old woman was startled at my presence, and wanted me to be gone; but I soon dispelled her fears, and explained the true motives of my visit.

“ ‘ I am hungry and fatigued,’ said I, ‘ give me something to eat, and let me remain

remain under the shelter of your hut, till the heat of the day is spent, and I will repay you for your trouble.'

" 'Maffa,' replied the old slave, ' me got very little morsel to eat myself: but nebber mind, often neger hab nothing at all to eat; so, maffa, you eat to-day, and Galla will do without meat. Yes, maffa! Galla got good heart, though Galla only poor black woman, poor slave.'

" In this manner the good creature ran on for some time, endeavouring, with the little skill in language she possessed, to demonstrate, that she differed as much in feeling and humanity, from the generality of females in polished society, as she did in complexion or personal charms.

" Beneath the sooty skin of this old African, was hid a heart that nature had fashioned from her richest clay, and en-

dowed with the rare germs of benevolence and compassion. At the recital of my tale, the tears of pity glistened in her eyes, whose animation the hand of sorrow had not been able to deface, nor the rheum of age to destroy. Though melancholy was marked on her countenance, and her body almost bent to the earth, with the pressure of years and afflictions, still she was alive to the dictates of compassion; could sympathise with the miseries of others; and, as far as her feeble power extended, was anxious to exert it in the service of distress.

“ With the assistance of a few sticks she made her pot boil, and having put some plantains among the ashes, she went out to milk a goat that was browsing near the door. She soon returned, and spread on the humble table of the earth, a breakfast,

on

on which luxury herself sometimes condescends to feed. It consisted of goat's milk and coffee. The plantains supplied the place of bread, and were a good succedaneum, or at least my appetite was in no humour to find fault with its entertainment.

"After I had made a hearty meal on these viands, I was conducted by the old woman to a little closet, where, on the floor, a mat was made to answer the purpose of a bed, and a truss of hay supplied the luxury of a pillow. The heat of the climate rendered bed-cloaths unnecessary, and the fatigue of my limbs soon disposed me to sleep.

"My repose was, however, short and unquiet. The agitation of my mind awoke me, and symptoms of a fever, which a burning thirst and quick pulse

plainly indicated, made me almost repent that I had undergone such toil and danger, to fall, perhaps, a speedy victim to inexorable disease. In my present situation, it was impossible for me to procure any medical assistance, to check the progress of my disease. My whole fortune scarcely amounted to three dollars, and a very few days' sickness would consume a much larger sum. Besides, I was afraid my poor hostess would not dare to let me remain under her roof, without the permission of her master, or overseer, whose hearts, perhaps, disdained to harbour one single, solitary virtue.

“ Perplexed with these ideas, and tormented with the pains of my distemper, which rapidly increased, I determined to depart from the hut, whilst my limbs were yet capable of performing their offices, and

and seek the shelter of some friendly tree, where, remote from the habitations of man, nature might fight her own battles. Full of this resolution, I went in quest of my hostess, to repay her for the trouble I had caused her; and, as I thought, for the last time to gaze on a fellow-being whose sorrows were superior to my own, but whose heart was still alive to the calls of compassion and humanity, and patiently awaited that period, when death should deprive her of the power of benefiting a fellow-creature.

“ I found her weeding the garden that supplied the luxurious palate of her master: a child was playing by her side, unconscious of the stock of misery that avarice had in store to pour on its devoted head. I stood for some time unperceived, and contemplated the irksome labour

of the one, and the thoughtless sport of the other. Fancy assisted my meditation, and added twenty years to the picture that was before me.—Galla was no more: the grave had received her sorrows, and loosened her bonds. But the tender limbs of the sporting innocent were ripened to manhood, and the smile of health and joy, that sat on his countenance, was changed to the frown of dejection and despair. I saw him groaning beneath a burden, which his tottering limbs could scarce sustain. The tears of anguish gushed into his eyes, but manly pride refused to give them vent; and as he struggled to conceal his feelings, I observed a half-suppressed convulsive sob escape his lips. I thought he quickened his pace, and as he passed by me, I saw his meagre back furrowed

furrowed with the scourges of his accursed task-masters.—

“I could no longer pursue the figure my imagination had painted.—A thick darkness overshadowed my eyes: my legs were unable to support me, and I sunk senseless to the earth.

“When I recovered my senses, I was lying on the matted bed: the old woman was seated on the floor by my side, and with one hand supported my head, while with the other she chafed my temples with the cooling juice of the lime. I was unable to thank her for her kindness; disease had deprived me of the power of utterance; but perhaps the mute gratitude of my countenance was more expressive of my feelings than a thousand words could have been. I soon, however, relapsed into my former state of in-

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sensibility; my fever increased; and for three days, death seemed at hand to relieve my afflictions. But my hour was not yet come. On the fourth day, all dangerous symptoms left me: my appetite returned, my spirits and hopes revived, and want of strength was the only impediment that retarded my journey.

“ At the expiration of ten days I was perfectly recovered, and intended in the evening to take my leave of the hospitable Galla. I had, with much entreaty, prevailed on her to accept the half of my little fortune. I was willing she should have taken it all, but she answered me, she had few wants, and no desires: that death would soon restore her to the land of her fathers, and the embraces of her children. She then related the principal events of her life. They were short and melancholy.

melancholy. The morning of her existence had been spent in the enjoyment of liberty, but a long period of slavery was aggravated by its remembrance, and past happiness redoubled present misery.

“ Whilst I was listening with attention to her simple, unaffected tale, and sighing over her griefs and misfortunes, my occupation was interrupted by the appearance of a tall middle-aged man, whose haughty deportment seemed to indicate him a person of authority. He was the first of my countrymen I had seen since my escape.

“ ‘ Pray,’ said he, addressing himself to me, ‘ what business have you here? and who gave you permission to come into my house?’

“ ‘ Sickness drove me here, and this kind old woman has nursed me, and permitted me to remain under her roof.’

“ ‘ Kind, indeed ! But my whip shall repay her kindness, and if you do not instantly begone, you shall share it with her.’ ”

“ His hand was uplifted to scourge my benefactress: the venerable, hoary head, whose eyes had wept the return of seventy summers, could afford her no protection from this demon of inhumanity. Already the blood trickled down her aged back, before I could fly to her assistance.

“ ‘ Monster !’ I exclaimed, ‘ desist !’ ”

“ At this moment, anger and madness strengthened and invigorated my limbs, and had I had a tyger for my antagonist, I would have encountered him, I would have hazarded my life to rescue my benefactress. I seized the human monster by the throat, and with one blow levelled him to the ground ; not content with my victory,

victory, I trampled on his prostrate carcase, and spurned him as he lay. At length, however, reason overcame my fury, and I permitted him to rise. But I had little cause to applause my forbearance, for he in his turn became the assailant, and repaid my blows with such vengeance, that I almost sunk beneath their weight. Seeing my strength greatly exhausted, my antagonist redoubled his efforts, striving to close in with me; but, as I perceived his intention, I kept him at bay, and watching an opportunity when he was panting for breath, I directed my whole strength against his breast, and again levelled him to the ground.

“ My last blow was effectual: he was unable to rise from the ground; and having vomited a profuse quantity of blood, he fainted. I was considerably alarmed

at this accident, and blamed my own
 rashness and passion, that I had not fought
 by reason and argument, rather than
 blows, to convince my opponent of his
 error. But repentance is a foolish and
 useless virtue, unless it be attended with
 endeavours to rectify and amend the fault
 it bewails. Instead, therefore, of idly
 lamenting what had already happened, I
 applied every method in my power to re-
 cover the fainting man. In this, I suc-
 ceeded so well, that in three quarters of
 an hour he was able to walk; and his
 anger had so far subsided, that he con-
 sented to shake hands with me, and
 moreover promised to behave towards
 Galla with more humanity for the future.
 He then expressed a wish to return to
 his own house; and as he was very weak
 with loss of blood, I offered to accompany
 him.

him. At first, he seemed afraid to accept my offer; but a little persuasion soon overcame his scruples, and he accepted the assistance of my arm. On the road to his habitation, our conversation turned on the subject of slavery and its consequences. 'Paradoxical as it may appear,' I said, 'it is nevertheless my opinion, that the condition of the master is very nearly allied to that of the slave, and his degradation infinitely lower. The master, as he infringes the simple and equitable regulation of nature, which ordains the universal equality of the human race, is the slave of avarice or pride, or perhaps of both. The authority he assumes over a number of his fellow-beings, is repugnant to the laws of reason and truth: he becomes a fountain of abuse, and disseminates

feminates his poisons around him. As he abridges the comforts of others, or augments their miseries, he becomes a foe to his own happiness, and imbibes a portion of that distress which his own influence diffuses. The happiness of man, must be measured by the state of the society of which he is a member, and not by the blessings which fortune has showered upon his own head. Though custom and prejudice have been able to effect many wonderful revolutions in the sentiments of mankind, still, I believe, there are few men so insensible to the voice of nature, so dead to the workings of humanity, as not in some degree to be influenced by surrounding objects, and participate in the comfort or affliction they behold. The slave-master, though he feels not the galling yoke himself, must well know
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that

that misery is the lot of its wearer; and if apathy has not taken sovereign possession of his soul, this consideration must secretly corrode his happiness, and blast the enjoyment of his wealth and power. But should his heart be devoid of feeling and humanity, and all his pleasures concentrate in himself, then he will be a prey to anxious jealousy and selfish care. Fears and doubts will haunt his meditations, and anguish and remorse will disturb his repose. The slave that crouches at his presence will inspire him with dread, lest his arm should be the inflicter of just vengeance: and, whilst his myrmidons cajole and flatter his insatiable vanity, the murmur and despondent looks of the slave will sink deep into his heart, and create a festering pang, which the enjoyment of wealth and power can never eradicate.

Tranquillity

Tranquillity will be absent from his mind, and turbulence and passion will usurp its place, and foment the agonies of his soul.

“ ‘ Let us now pursue the subject of his degradation, and while I am the advocate for the slave, let me remember I am not the prosecutor of his master.—It is a maxim with a very considerable portion of mankind, to despise the children of adversity, and admire the offspring of prosperity. By this axiom all their opinions are regulated. The fiat which decrees the inequality of mankind, is confirmed by its doctrine, and its mandates have legislated slavery for one half the inhabitants of the globe! Was I alone its victim, I should silently despise its adherents; but, when myriads have suffered, and daily suffer, under this destructive error,

error, I feel an enthusiasm I cannot repress,
and a detestation I cannot subdue.

“Wealth too frequently reflects a lustre on its possessor, which the thoughtless world mistakes for virtue; and, on the contrary, poverty assumes so disgusting an appearance, that depravity and vice, are usually suspected to be its adherents. But reason will ever reject false appearances, and, in her search after truth, avoid the current which flows with the passions and prejudices of the ignorant and interested. She will discriminate between the substance and the shadow, and extract the pure metal from the alloy.

“Let us now direct our attention to the question, whether the master, or the slave, exhibits the most offensive picture of human degradation? I hesitate not to answer,

answer, the master. The condition of the slave, excites our pity and compassion; that of the master, our anger and indignation. The one is sunk in the abyss of wretchedness, and is unable to extricate himself from it: the other is the author of that misery, and though he is able to remove it, he prolongs its continuance, and augments its poignancy. The very office and character of a master, is odious and oppressive: it assumes an authority where none ought to exist, and abrogates a right which men ought to enjoy in common. Though the master be a man of humanity and good intentions, still the very nature of his situation, to be lord over a number of his fellow-beings, is repugnant to every generous and manly sentiment, and deserves our abhorrence and execration. If, therefore, misery and oppression

oppression have degraded the character of the slave, baseness and infamy must attach to that of the master.

“‘ It is a trite observation, and, I believe, a just one, that the pleasure we derive from benefiting another is greater, than the pleasure we receive from having benefits conferred on ourselves. Nor indeed is it to be wondered at, when we consider the various reciprocal bonds by which men are united together, and rely on each other for support. Man delights in society, and the exercise of those powers, which he thinks best calculated to promote the happiness of that society of which he is a member. His views and actions are directed to this end, and if he fails, it must be attributed to the narrowness of his powers, or their misapplication. The failure of the planter in this great duty, proceeds from
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the mistaken notions he entertains of society and happiness. His society is dwindled down to about a dozen persons, and his happiness consists solely in their aggrandizement. For this purpose, Africa supplies him with slaves, ignorant it is true, and, perhaps, in the common acceptation of the word, vicious also, but then he ought to remember, that to make men virtuous, it is necessary first to make them happy. As he infringes the comforts of the African, he neglects and diminishes his own; for by the same proportion as he increases the happiness of others, would his own happiness increase. And what a vast source of exquisite enjoyment would result from the prosecution of a scheme to meliorate the condition of the unhappy, to restore the African to the rank of man, and to eradicate slavery from the earth.'

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"Here my discourse on slavery was broken off by the appearance of some of my companion's friends ; and as they offered to accompany him home, my attendance became no longer necessary. I therefore took my leave, and wishing him well recovered of his bruises, I returned to bid farewell to the afflicted Galla.

"She was sitting by the threshold of the door, and as I approached, she wiped away the tears with which her cheeks were bedewed, and for a moment, joy seemed to sparkle on her countenance.

" ' I am come, Galla,' said I, ' to thank you for all your kindness, to ask your forgiveness for the cruel treatment of which I have been the occasion, and to bid you farewell for ever. I shall soon pass over the mountains, and return, perhaps, to my own country, where, if they

still

still live, I hope to find some affectionate friends, who will bestow the boon of pity on thy sorrows; alas! the only consolation they can give."

"Tears now flowed fast from both our eyes. I was unable to proceed, but my sighs were expressive of my feelings, and spoke the sentiments of my heart. After a considerable pause, Galla broke silence:

"'If in your own country,' said she, 'you should meet a negro in sickness and distress, befriend him, and you will repay me.'

"'Farewel Galla! though the boundless ocean separates us, not all its waters shall wash thy injunction from my mind.'

"These were my last words, and I now took my departure; but not before I had experienced another act of Galla's kindness.

kindness. She had procured some rum for me, which filled a cocoa-nut shell, and as she gave it me, she said, it would cheer me as I crossed the mountains.

CHAPTER XI.

“**T**HE sun was yet two hours above the horizon, when I departed, and beheld, for the last time, the venerable face of my protectress. As I walked with vigour and speed, the pimento-grove soon disappeared from my sight, and I had attained the middle regions of the Blue mountains, before the last glimmerings of the day were sunk in the western ocean. It was that season of the year, when Nature, armed with vengeance, pays her desolating visits to the tropical world. A thick darkness now overspread the firmament, and the loud thunders began to roar in the vallies beneath: the boisterous wind howled among the precipices of the mountains, and the rain descended in a deluge

deluge from the sky. I was unable to proceed any farther. I therefore sought the shelter of a cave, which the hand of nature had hollowed from the solid rock, and there determined to take up my abode for the night. I now broached my little stock of rum, and after drinking to the happiness of its donor, I laid myself down on the rock, and endeavoured to compose myself to sleep. But my attempt was fruitless, for the storm increased with such violence, that the conflicting elements seemed to threaten ruin and desolation to the animal and vegetable world. The vivid lightning shot, in every direction, from the clouds, and made visible the horrors of the tornado, while the loud cracks of the artillery of the air, were resounded by a thousand echoes from the sides of the mountains. The scene was

awfully sublime. The warring elements menaced destruction to all nature, and chaos seemed about to return.

“ At day-break, however, the storm abated; the rising sun dissipated the clouds, yet pregnant with destruction, and Nature resumed her usual serenity. I proceeded on my journey, reflecting on the ravages of the storm. It had thrown down the splendid habitations of luxury and wealth, but had spared the humble dwellings of poverty and want. It had destroyed the proud mansion where the inexorable oppressor held his reign, but the lowly cot of his slave remained undamaged by its blast.—Yes, my friend! Nature had wreaked her mighty vengeance on the self-created masters of the world, and despoiled the despoiler; his sugar-houses were destroyed, and his plantations

tations levelled to the earth. But I rejoiced ; for the groans of thousands were revenged, and the ill-gotten wealth of the oppressor was dissipated.

“ I soon reached the summit of the Blue mountains, and beheld from thence the fertile savannas of Jamaica extended at my feet, and the high lands of Cuba just emerging from the surface of the Atlantic Ocean. The prospect was grand and magnificent. The hurricane had spared the northern side of the island, and the gay verdure of its woods remained unfaded. The lofty cedar reared its undamaged branches to the sky, and afforded protection to the gaily-apparelled inhabitants of the air. The various trees peculiar to the tropical climate, adorned the jutting brow of every hill, and refreshed the wearied eye with their verdant

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foliage.

foliage. All nature was dressed in her jubilee array.

“ But my heart was too sad to relish the beauties of nature ; too much oppressed to feel its sublimities. I was a forlorn wanderer, destitute of the comforts and necessaries of life. All the pleasing hopes that had adorned and gilded the morning of my existence, were vanished, and sorrow and misfortune had obtruded in their place.

“ I descended with speed from the mountains, and arrived, about noon-day, at a little negro-village, where I procured a few yams and plantains, to satisfy my hunger. I then, again, set forward on my journey, and towards sun-set, reached the place of my destination. Here I went on board of a vessel that was to sail, in a few days for New York, with a cargo
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of rum, for the use of the British army; and as the captain was in want of hands, he agreed to give me fourteen guineas on our arrival at that place.

“ Nothing material happened during our passage, and in a few weeks, we arrived safe at New York. I there learnt, that war still continued to desolate that fertile country; for though the cause of liberty was at that period very successful; nevertheless, the rulers of England blindly fought to crush, with hordes of German mercenaries, the budding liberties of North America. I had a strong inclination to engage in the defence of the cause of freedom. I was convinced of its justice; yet twelve months spent in incessant toil and cruel bondage, had not been sufficient to remove the prejudices I had imbibed in my youth. I still retain-

ed a filial affection for the land that gave me life, and thought it a crime to wage war against her offspring. I therefore resolved to remain neuter, as that conduct appeared to be most consistent with my opinions and prejudices. But this scheme, though very agreeable to my inclination, was almost impracticable. New York was, at that time, in daily expectation of changing masters; and as I was not a citizen of the United States, I should be considered as a prisoner of war, if it was taken.

“ While I was in this predicament, a captain of a vessel that was fitting out for the West Indies, applied to me to go with him, and offered to make me mate of his ship. I did not relish his proposal, as I dreaded getting on board a man-of-war, and had experienced
too

too many hardships to engage rashly in any scheme, where I might run a risk of encountering the like again. I therefore thanked the captain for his offer, which I could not accept; and as I had no acquaintance in New York, I begged his assistance to procure me a situation on shore, where I might be protected from becoming the prisoner of either party, and earn a maintenance by my bodily labour. He answered me, that if I did not intend going to sea again, he could procure me a place in a quaker's family that was going to remove to the back settlements until the war was over. This plan was perfectly congenial to my sentiments; and, lest another should apply for the place, I waited upon the quaker the same day, and was immediately engaged in his service.

The quaker was a man of an enlarged and benevolent mind. Free from the rigid peculiarities, he possessed all that amiable simplicity, which distinguishes his community, and procures it the praise of the philosopher, and the censure or contempt of the thoughtless and ignorant. I had great reason to rejoice at my new situation, for the quaker not only took me into his own house, but also furnished me with every thing necessary for the journey I was about to undertake, and absolutely refused to suffer me to lay out any of my own money.

“ In a few days, the quaker and his wife, four young children and myself, set off in a small waggon, drawn by two horses, for the falls of St. Anthony, on the river Mississippi. A few quaker families had established a settlement at that sequestered

questered spot ; where, apart from the busy intrigues of a vicious world, they pursued, unmolested, the noblest and fittest occupations of man—the shepherd and husbandman.

“ As nothing worthy relation happened to us during our journey to this settlement, I shall pass on to the time of our arrival. Instead of a few straggling huts, which were the only dwellings I expected to find, I was surprised, after the vast uncultivated wilds through which I had passed, to see a neat, well-built village, in which the allegorical deities, Peace and Plenty, might justly be said to have taken up their abode. Health and contentment were depicted on every countenance I saw ; and the unfeigned joy of a lively group who advanced to meet us, testified a hearty welcome.

“ After we arrived at the village, and had taken some refreshment, a meeting of all the inhabitants was held at a spacious hall, to consult how we were to be accommodated, until an habitation could be erected for us. It was soon agreed upon, that we should be lodged with different families until a house was built; that on the following day, one from every family should be employed in hewing timber, and making the other necessary preparations for building, and that before we went to work, we should be allowed a week, or longer if necessary, to recover from the fatigues of our journey.

“ I shall now proceed to give you a description of the site and natural productions of this settlement, and then proceed to discuss the manners, customs, and salutary regulations of its inhabitants, which
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are happily untainted with the errors and superstitions of their fathers.

" The name of the settlement was Anachoropolis, or the town of retirement. It was situated about two miles from the river Mississippi, and rather more than nine from the Falls of St. Anthony. A vast forest of oaks, pines, and other trees, sheltered it from every quarter, except the south-west, where a delightful savanna, through which the Mississippi ran, was bounded only by the horizon. The forest supplied them with fuel, and materials for building their houses; and besides these necessities of life, it furnished them with some of the luxuries. The maple supplied them with sugar, equal, if not superior in quality, to that which is manufactured from the groans of the African; and from the spruce-pine they

extracted an essence, which, fermented with water, and sweetened with sugar, made a most excellent beverage.

“The luxuriance of their savanna could not be rivalled by the best cultivated lands in England. It afforded excellent pasturage for their cattle, and plentiful crops of corn, and a variety of nutritive vegetables for themselves. The tea-tables of their women were supplied from the gardens, with herbs more agreeable to the palate, and wholsomer to the stomach, than the monopolized plant of China. Their stock of cattle consisted only of five cows, a bull, about a dozen horses, and nearly the same number of sheep and goats; they therefore rarely tasted animal food; but while they possessed, in so eminent a degree, the other blessings of the earth, they had little reason (to use
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the phrazeology of Moses) to lust after the flesh-pots of Egypt.

“ Free from the restraints of trade and commerce, which fetter and vitiate the manners of European countries, they pursue the various occupations of amusement or labour, as their inclinations or necessities prompt them. They enjoy the pastoral life in all its primitive innocence, and Arcadian felicity; and so fertile is the soil, that the labour of each individual, towards its cultivation, does not amount to more than an hour during the day. They have, therefore, a great deal of leisure time, but it does not hang heavy on their hands; for, besides their domestic duties and amusements, they frequently make excursions upon the Mississippi, or penetrate the forest in search of wild honey.

“ Visiting

“ Visiting is entirely unknown among them, except in cases of sickness, and then only old and discreet persons are permitted to approach the patient. But this is no hinderance to their social intercourse, for they have a large park, which extends from their dwellings to the Mississippi, where the young and the old meet every day, and join in such sports and recreations as are best suited to their years or inclinations. They are strangers to all games of chance, for whatever does not tend to their mental or bodily improvement, they consider as a prostitution of time. For this reason they reject dancing and singing, as having a tendency to debase and effeminate their minds ; but they encourage their children to engage in athletic sports and exercises, and instruct them to dive and swim ; in which last art,

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many of them are such proficient, as to be able to glide with the stream of the Mississippi, for the length of eight or ten miles.

“ ‘Man,’ they say, ‘ought to be provided within himself, with every possible precaution for his own preservation, and not to trust to accident or chance for relief in the hour of danger.’ They also assert, ‘that for want of proper cultivation and improvement, the organs of sensation are far from being so useful as they might be made ;’ nor is this doctrine confined, for they have several practical rules, by which the senses of vision and hearing have been increased in a wonderful degree.

“ The first lesson the pupil receives, in this new school of improvement, is to acquire the power of abstracting his or-

gans from the sensation of every external object, except that to which he wishes his attention to be directed. This, at first, is a task of immense difficulty and labour, but assiduity and perseverance enable them to overcome it; and so skilful are some of them, in this extraordinary accomplishment, that when they are viewing a distant object, if a pistol is fired over their heads, they do not hear it. They then proceed to improve the powers of vision, for which purpose, they place a printed book at a certain distance from them, extending the distance as the strength of their sight increases, till, at length, I have seen them able to read a small-typed book, at the distance of thirty, and even forty yards.

“Incredible as this may appear to those who have never examined the theory upon
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on which it is built, it is nevertheless founded upon the solid basis of irrefragible reason. It is a well-known fact, that, when any one of the organs of sensation is destroyed, the others acquire a greater degree of acuteness than they had before. Thus, the deaf, by their superior quickness of sight, are frequently enabled to understand a conversation from the motion of the lips of the speakers; and blind men, by the exquisiteness of their touch, have been able to distinguish the colours of paintings, and to describe the subject drawn. From this we may infer, that when one of the ministering organs is destroyed, the remainder are endowed with a greater degree of acuteness than they before possessed, and what is subtracted from the one, is added to another. That it is possible for the agency of one of the senses,

senses, so entirely to absorb the powers of the rest, as for a time to render them incapable of perception, is illustrated by the well-known story of the death of Archimedes.

“We know from experience, that our organs of vision, are as capable of distinguishing objects, when we are only five years old, as they are when we are thirty: yet, no one supposes a child able to carry so heavy a burden as a man, or run so fast, or eat the same quantity of food, or drink as much wine. In every respect, the man is superior, except in the organs of sensation, and then the child possesses in perfect equality. He can distinguish hard from soft bodies as well as the man; he hears as well, and he is equally capable of judging of tastes. But when so wonderful a difference exists in every

every other respect, we may be led to enquire, why the organs of sensation do not improve in the same progressive manner as the other faculties of the body? or, how far it is rational to expect they may be improved?

“It is an evident proposition, that a certain portion of labour or exercise, is very beneficial to the human frame, and also, that men become proficient in various arts and sciences, by study and application only. It would be folly to assert that Napier understood logarithms, as well at five years of age, as he did at thirty, or as well at thirty, as he did at sixty; but, doubtless Napier’s organs of sensation, were as acute when he was only five years, as they were at any other period of his life. The reason is obvious. The organs of sensation are the only parts
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of the human body, which we neglect to improve. We use exercise to strengthen our limbs; our memories are increased with reading and reflection; and our ideas are enlarged by a commerce with the world. While our organs of sensation continue in the same state of infancy, as when they were first produced, because we do not bestow the same cultivation upon them as we do upon our other faculties. The man who is accustomed to walk twenty miles every day, feels no inconvenience from his journey; but should another, who has been accustomed to ride in a coach, perform the same task, he would almost sink with fatigue before he could complete it. The pedestrian has no physical superiority over the man that rides in a coach, but custom has rendered his occupation easy. The same
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may be said of education. Not one third of the inhabitants of the globe, can either read or write: but we do not suppose that this results from want of abilities, but from want of instruction. Thus, though the organs of sensation remain in an unimproved state, it does not follow that they are incapable of improvement; nor is it a romantic supposition to conceive, that the organs of vision may be so much improved, that a man will be able clearly to distinguish objects at as great a distance, as the curvature of the earth will admit.

“It is thus the youth of Anachoropolis, have ventured to explore a new and fertile region of wonder, improvement, and delight. Unshackled by the dull, pedantic rules, which solitary monks and superstitious priests have prescribed, they pursue

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due the study that nature directs : they expand the various faculties of their own bodies, and call each latent power into action.

“It was established by universal consent, that no individual could possess any property ; but that the produce of the land, cattle, &c. belonged to the community at large, and as such it was deposited in public store-houses, from whence each family took whatever was necessary for their domestic uses. As the fruits of the earth were common property, so its cultivation was common labour ; and to this end every person, who was not employed on some other duty, dedicated a portion of the day. Hence it is, that labour becomes a pleasure rather than a task, and so equitably is it divided, that twenty-
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three hours remain for the purposes of rest or recreation.

“Morality is the foundation of their religious system, and so far from admitting faith to be any essential part of it, they allow the utmost latitude of scepticism to every one within the pale of their community: and so prevalent is the spirit of philosophy and liberal enquiry, that many of them no longer regard the doctrine of revelation, as the only touchstone of moral rectitude. They all, however, agree, that theological virtue, without practical application, is a flimsy garment, which neither benefits the wearer nor his neighbours.

“In conformity to those tenets, and the established principle of the doctrines of the quakers, which makes the mind the fountain of religion, they have decreed, that, as uniformity of opinions with re-
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gard to speculative concerns is incompatible with the nature of man, it is necessary for the happiness of Anachoropolis, that all its inhabitants should enjoy a perfect liberty, to follow whatever belief seems best to their own judgment, and that no particular belief or opinion, can have any superiority over another.

“Yet excellent as these regulations were, and well calculated to diffuse a noble and liberal spirit, still they were unable to dispel the fanaticism that rankled in the hearts of a few, and threatened to impose the barrier of ignorance on the understandings of the many. They openly lamented the defeat of superstition, and secretly fomented measures for its re-establishment. But the genius of their legislator was prepared to combat their machinations, and, with the irresistible powers

powers of reason and argument, to overcome their visionary projects, and assert the equitable empire of philosophy and truth.

“ Success was attendant on his efforts, and victory crowned his designs: the illusions of bigotry were dissipated, and the sunshine of liberal sentiment diffused its genial influence over Anachoropolis. The countenance that once displayed the cheerless gloom of religious humility, was now expanded with innocent hilarity and gaiety: no longer was a formal, stiff deportment, accounted the only passport to heaven, nor the dove-coloured coat, the only garb of righteousness. From that period, the inspiration of the spirit ceased, and the groans of self-tormentors were no longer heard. Peace and harmony were restored to the community, and feuds

and dissensions fled from the voice of truth.

“ During the whole course of my residence among them, I do not remember one single offence to have been committed, either against the laws of morality, or property. The very children have fortitude to resist the little temptations, to which their age is in a peculiar manner liable: and so highly is this virtue cultivated, that the rising generation express all their ideas on deviation from the law of property, by the single term, dishonesty. They would laugh at any person, who should attempt to class in methodical order, the various gradations of crimes; and nothing can be more unintelligible to their understandings, than the jargon of an English court of justice.

“ As the infantine state of Anachoropolis

polis renders sumptuary laws unnecessary, and its want of commerce prevents the influx of superfluous commodities, their legislator has devised no expedients against luxury and voluptuousness, assigning for his reason, that as most of his endeavours had been directed to the improvement of the mind, it would be ridiculous in him to enact regulations, which were only necessary for nations in a state of decline, or just emerging from barbarism.

“He then proceeds to discuss the ties which connect husband and wife, parent and child; and, animadverting on the reciprocal duties and obligations, which their correlative situation imposes on each, he laments that those connections should so frequently be productive of discontent and unhappiness. ‘But,’ says he, ‘while we are disposed to pay

those persons whose union is a source of misery and wretchedness, we shall do well to direct our attention to the condition of children in general. There we shall find much to blame, much to amend, and much to commiserate. They have long been the victims of parental tyranny and oppressions, the spring of their lives has been clouded with cares and distresses, and their joys have been imbibed by harsh and arbitrary controls. Let us advance their happiness, and restore the rights and privileges, which immemorial prescription has taken away from them. Let us permit them to participate in the blessings of freedom, and share its genial influence with us. Let us make them happy, and then they will realize every wish our fondest expectations can imagine. They will rise superior to the superstitions which have

have enervated and embarrassed the intellects of their forefathers, and their efforts shall astonish and delight us. Mystery and prejudice shall vanish from their understandings, and perfection of science will be the reward of their endeavours. Though this should be the work of ages, ages will celebrate our fame, and bless the hands that laid the foundation of the fabric.

“ ‘ Man,’ continues their legislator, ‘ is born ignorant: and all his talents and acquirements, are the effects of education. His entrance into life is the commencement of his education, and its career terminates only with his existence.

“ ‘ The science of education may be divided into two heads: the cultivation of the powers of the understanding, and the improvement of the faculties of the
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body. These two heads are closely connected together, and form an alliance which ought to be regarded with the most scrupulous and vigilant attention. The safety of the one is intimately involved with the prosperity of the other, and the failure of the one is liable to produce the most ruinous effects on the welfare and success of the other. The utmost care is therefore requisite, that these two branches of education should be equally cultivated.'

"Their legislator then proceeds to suggest a systematical course of education, dividing its progress into five periods, and assigning various regulations for each particular period. As his ordinances have been attended with an inestimable benefit to the youth of Anachoropolis, I shall endeavour to relate them in his own words.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XII.

“THE first, but least momentous, period of the education of man, is comprehended in the two first years of his existence. He is then susceptible of little more than the demands of hunger, and the avoidance of pain. Sleep occupies the greatest portion of his existence, and absorbs all those faculties of the mind, which are indicative of future genius or folly. In all instances, the childhood of man is nearly alike :—a state of pitiable helplessness and inability. It demands in a peculiar manner our aid and assistance ; and but for our care, the infant would infallibly perish. But whilst we administer to their wants and necessities, we must be careful

to act in such a manner, as will be most conducive to their future benefit. For this purpose, their bodies should be inured to bear the vicissitudes of the seasons, and the changes of the weather: we should expose their naked limbs to the snows of winter, and teach them to endure the meridian rays of the summer's sun. The lethargy that overpowers their faculties, ought by gentle degrees to be counteracted, that vigilance and watchfulness may one day form a feature of their character: and the epidemical diseases, to which mankind are liable, ought, if possible, to be confined to this period. The fits of peevishness and ill-humour, to which children at this age are subject, may be cured, by suffering their little passions and foolish desires to consume themselves, and in no wise to foster their inclinations

inclinations with absurd indulgences or preposterous promises. It is also necessary to inspire them with just ideas of their own insignificance: but if the self-love which is implanted in every breast, should render this a difficult task, we may, at least, guard against the opposite extreme, and in no instance, ever suffer our affection for our offspring, to make us chant their praises beyond the limits of reason and truth.

“ ‘ Our attention must now be directed to the second period, which comprehends the commencement of their third, and the completion of their fifth year. In this period, the buds of understanding begin to display themselves: feebleness and imbecility are banished from their limbs, and vigour and activity strengthen their little frames. Their senses are

now alive to the wonders which each succeeding day exhibits, and their ideas are enlarged by remembrance and reflection. They compare the various relations of persons and things, and judge of their agreement or difference. They seek to discover the causes of effects, and perplex themselves to understand the phenomena of nature.—Thus, the Mississippi, swollen by the rain, yesterday overflowed its banks, but to-day it has again subsided within its usual channel. Every little tongue will tell you this event, and lisping demand, why the Mississippi invaded their play-ground? or, why they were deprived of yesterday's little lake? When you have satisfied their enquiries, they are eager to impart their knowledge to every one they meet, and thus impress

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it upon their minds, or discover new sources of improvement.

“ ‘ It is at this age we must endeavour to wean their affections from peculiar persons, as parents or brothers ; and inspire their breasts with an equal love for every member of the community. This will destroy every selfish passion, and create a noble ardour in their hearts that death alone can extinguish. It is incalculable the injury a parent does his child, when he inspires him with an ardent love and affection for himself alone. The parent then becomes the standard of his child’s actions, and the guide and regulator of his conduct ; so that it is almost impossible the abilities of the son should exceed those of the father. But the evil does not rest here ; for when death deprives the son of the benefit of his father’s

advice, he is not only left without a counsellor, but there is a chasm in the affections of his heart, that will corrode his peace and happiness, that will destroy the energies of his mind, and introduce an habitual melancholy, to shorten and embitter the days of his existence. Fix not, therefore, the affections of your children on objects that may soon be taken away from them; but endeavour to encrease their happiness, by diffusing their affections among a multitude of objects, so that it shall be impossible for all the sources of their joys to be cut off at one blow.

“ ‘ This will be an easy task; for the minds of children are peculiarly susceptible of kindnesses, and they strive, by every token of endearment in their power, to repay the obligations we bestow upon them. They watch, with anxious looks,
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the eye of their benefactor, and are ever desirous to intrude themselves upon his notice. They seek to serve him by every method in their power, and are never so happy, as when they are employed in some office for his advantage. All their little faculties are at his command, and his pleasure guides their will.

“ ‘ These amiable characteristics of the second period ought to be diverted into as wide and extensive a channel as possible, that their effects may not be confined simply to the happiness of a few. For this end, the child must be separated from the parent, and all the fanciful bonds which their affinity imposes, must be dissolved. The child must now be educated for a citizen, and not for a son. As this extends to the whole community, each family must part with its own child, and

receive into its protection the child of another : and lest, in this separation, the affection between children and adults should still be confined to a narrow circle, it will be of advantage that the children should frequently change their place of abode. They will then forget any contracted ideas they have conceived, and acquire the most just and liberal sentiments towards every member of the community. Philanthropy will then become an eminent trait of their characters, and we shall no longer be able to find the spoiled child of a doating mother, or a kind father. Our faults will not be the hereditary possessions of our children, nor our errors their birthright. They will be heirs of our virtues, and studious only to excel us in the art of rendering mankind happy.

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“ ‘ It is at this period that the limbs of our offspring become pliant and active ; attention is no longer necessary to preserve them from falling, and they now form themselves into a little commonwealth, for the purposes of sport and recreation. Society now presents her exhilarating charms to their ardent imaginations, and inflexible equality secures her blessings. Be ours the pleasing labour to guide and regulate this happy commonwealth, to foster it with our care, and promote its interests with our best exertions. Let us cherish their innocent sports and enjoyments, their pastimes and amusements ; and let us make their happiness our own. But prudence must be attendant on our endeavours, and we must not lose sight of their future welfare, in an over-anxious solicitude for their present felicity. They must therefore

fore be taught to despise sleep, to endure fatigue, and exercise their bodies with running, leaping, and swimming. These acquirements will soon become habitual, and promote the purposes both of amusement and preservation. Sloth and indolence must be banished from their limbs, lest their baneful influence should corrupt the faculties of the mind, and wither the early blossoms of the understanding.

“ ‘ During the last year of this period, it may, perhaps, be found necessary to instruct children in the rudiments of reading ; suffering them, however, entirely to follow their own inclinations in this affair ; for, we well know, hot-house fruits have never the mellow richness and delicious flavour of natural productions. Coercion is of all means the most repugnant to

to human nature, and where it is once successful, it fails a thousand times. In vain we seek for its effects in the improvement of the pupil: but could we look into his heart there we would find them. There sorrow and discontent have taken up their abode; and there fear and cunning exercise supreme dominion. All his faculties are enervated by the imperious commands of his master, and the forced blossoms of genius appear only to wither and decay. Coercion can never be necessary: its inroads must, therefore, be guarded against with the utmost vigilance and attention, that nothing which has the smallest affinity to its detestable doctrine, may ever form a portion of our system of education.

“ ‘ The third period of education may be computed from the commencement of
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the sixth, to the end of the twelfth year ; and forms an era of very considerable importance in the history of the progress of the human mind. It is now the powerful influence of education displays itself, and corrects the faults and weaknesses of childhood. The indications of future genius and character are now plainly perceivable, and the most diligent attention is requisite, that they be properly cultivated ; for neglect on the part of the preceptor will be attended with the most ruinous consequences to the education of the pupil.

“ As we totally reject the coercive system of education, it is necessary we should adopt some other plan, which, at once, may be productive both of the improvement and happiness of youth ; and, uniting at the same time the independence

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ence of their minds with an aptness and docility to be taught, may effect all the purposes which the most sanguine disposition can desire.—It is liberty alone that can kindle in youth the sacred flame of glory and emulation, that can inspire him with noble and generous sentiments, and form his mind for the reception of science and knowledge.

“ ‘ Their education must be voluntary ; and that its progress may be rapid, we have only to instil into their minds just ideas of its necessity and importance. The inquisitive disposition of youth will render this a task of little difficulty ; and after they have surmounted the first barriers of learning, their desire after knowledge will increase as they advance, and leave the tutor little more than the pleasing occupation of assisting and guiding their

their studies. Six hours each day must be dedicated to the instruction of the youth of the third period. The masters must be chosen in rotation from the adults of Anachoropolis; and continue in office only three months. Reading and writing, a knowledge of the powers of figures, and the elements of geometry, will be sufficient to occupy the whole of the third period. For this purpose, a school must be erected by the community, and the books and other necessities supplied at its expence. The youth may either attend or absent themselves from this school as they think proper. But there is very little danger that they will absent themselves; for, while the lessons they are taught are not enforced by severities of any kind, the desire of surpassing their equals, and equalling their superiors, will

will not fail to render them diligent and attentive. The occupation of the master, as it will be of no long duration, will inspire him with a degree of enthusiasm, that a mercenary can never experience. He will feel the dignity and importance of the trust reposed in him, and act with energy and zeal, from a conviction that his office is of the utmost utility and service to his fellow-creatures.

“ ‘ Whilst we are thus anxious for the improvement of their mental faculties, our fostering care must also be directed to the cultivation of their bodily powers: that health may keep pace with science, and vigour of body with strength of understanding. Let eight hours each day be consecrated to this purpose, and the remaining ten to sleep and refreshment.

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This division of time between study, recreation, and rest, will introduce an habitual love of order and regularity into their minds, and teach them to appreciate the true value of time. Their own ingenuity will invent recreations sufficient to occupy the portion of time allotted to that purpose ; and as they acquire a taste for science, a part of that time will be dedicated to scientific objects.

“ ‘ The youth whose mind is inclined to the art of horticulture, will, at this period, search for some little plot of ground, where he may form a garden, and cultivate it with his own hands.—Thither he transports the wild flowers that grow on the savanna, and for its ornament or protection, he robs the maple of its tender sprouts. The auricula and polyanthus, the amaranth and iris, flourish under his protection ;

protection ; and for his delight the rose displays her blooms. Nor is his attention confined to the beauties alone of the vegetable world. He plants the potatoe, the bread-fruit of the earth, and rears the fragrant balm for his morning's repast. He teaches the tendrils of the crawling pea to embrace the stick he has erected for its support ; and under his direction, the hardy bean produces its annual crop. He digs a little canal from the Mississippi, to supply his garden with water, and every day adds to its convenience or beauty.

“ ‘ The youthful mechanic, at this period, will also attract our peculiar attention.—He now begins to apply his knowledge of geometry to the construction of various machines. He erects his mimic mill on the branch of some tree, or places
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it on the stream of the Mississippi. The elements become subservient to his purposes, and his will directs the powers of Nature. He prepares his engines to ensnare the inhabitants of the air, and makes prisoners the finny natives of the Mississippi. He is no longer the weak, feeble animal that is unable to protect itself; but by the agency of the understanding, he is become the mighty lord of the earth, the arbiter of the creation.

“‘ We shall only remark another instance of the various traits of future genius, which the youth of this period display.—The young philosopher is the object of our attention. We see and admire his rapid progress in learning, and behold him far outstripping his compeers in every acquirement of science or knowledge. But it is the erratic course of his studies

studies, that distinguishes him in a particular manner from the youth of his own age. His insatiable avidity for improvement urges him to engage in a variety of pursuits, and relying on the vigour of his own mind, he forsakes the old track of education, and boldly adventures on some unfrequented path. We rarely see him engaged in the sportive occupations of other youth, nor does he delight in their boisterous mirth. To him solitude presents more charms than society, and that he may enjoy them, he buries himself in the forest, and is, for whole hours, lost in meditation. Enquiry and doubt are prominent features in his character, and he appears dissatisfied with every explanation, until he is convinced of its justice or truth. He believes nothing on assertion, but requires reason and proof be-

fore he admits the certainty of any proposition. He listens with impatience to the garrulity of old age, and openly despises the trifling conversation of youth. His books are his companions, and his own ideas his amusements: the one is the food, the other the digestion.—Guard him with your tenderest care, and let your best endeavours promote his efforts, for he may one day become the Newton, or Boyle, of Anachoropolis.

“ If we review the aggregate improvements of the youth of the third period, we shall, perhaps, find them greater than the most sanguine disposition could expect. Besides the knowledge of reading and writing, which they at this period acquire, they are also acquainted with the principles of arithmetic and geometry, and understand the fundamental laws of nature.

nature. Their limbs are vigorous and athletic: they are able to endure fatigue, and delight in such employments as are conducive to their bodily health. Their opinions derive solidity from experience and reflection; and rectitude and soundness of judgment become their habitual qualifications. The frivolous, though innocent, amusements of childhood, no longer afford them any pleasure: as their inclinations guide them, they engage in new pursuits, and aspire to be acquainted with the various branches of scientific knowledge.

“The interval between the beginning of the thirteenth and the completion of the nineteenth year, forms the fourth and most important period of our system of education. On the cultivation of this period, depends not only the future welfare of our

pupil, but with it our own happiness is also intimately connected. Should our efforts, during this period, prove abortive, the misery, affliction, nay, even the utter ruin of us all, may be the consequence: but should success terminate our endeavours, then auspiciously great shall be the recompense of our labour.

“ ‘ During this period, it is necessary, that youth should, as before, be suffered entirely to follow the bent of their own inclinations; and as masters will no longer be necessary for their instruction, they may with freedom pursue the ex-cursive flights of fancy or taste. The philosophers of past ages, must now become their instructors: the page of history shall convince them of the happiness of their condition, and forbid them to repine after the vices and luxuries of

Europe. The example of their fathers, shall inspire them with a love and adoration of virtue; and a knowledge of its excellence, shall teach them to cultivate and practise it. Science shall banish prejudice and error from their minds, and the beams of truth shall illumine their understandings.

“ But it is at this period, that the blood circulates with more than wonted rapidity, the turbulent appetites and passions of humanity rage with vehemence and ardour, and the mind is threatened to become subservient to the gratification of sensual pleasures. Reason totters on her throne, and the understanding fluctuates between the calls of inclination and of equity.

“ To these portentous concomitants

of this eventful period, we must apply the best precautions our experience or sagacity can suggest: we must endeavour to render their minds superior to the gross desires incident to our species, and inspire them with an enthusiasm to curb each irregular passion, and assert the supremacy of reason over corporal appetites. The mind alone is able to effect what we desire, and its power is sufficient for every purpose. All our care must, therefore, be directed to the improvement of that omnipotent engine, to confirm the love of virtue and the hatred of vice, and to establish those principles of benevolence and philanthropy, which, during the former periods, it has been our study to inculcate.

“ The fifth period of education, is protracted

tracted from the end of the nineteenth year, to the utmost date of life. The pupil then begins to practise on a large scale the lessons he has been taught, and he applies his knowledge to the advantage of the community. Experience corrects the errors of youth, habituates the mind to the exercise of what is right, and regulates, with unerring fidelity, the conduct of man. They are deceived who imagine, that man, when he arrives at a certain period of life, is incapable of farther instruction or improvement, and ought to be contented with the knowledge he has already acquired. A little reflection will convince us, that each succeeding day adds to our stock of information, and what we were yesterday ignorant of, may to-day be made known to us. In-

struction ceases only with life. The four first periods, may be accounted the foundation of the fabric ; and, if they succeed according to our wishes, it is impossible to define how far the progress of knowledge and science may be extended.

CHAPTER XIII.

"**SUCH**, my friend, is the system of education laid down by the legislator of Anachoropolis; and, as far as my observations have extended, it has produced the happiest effects. During my residence among them, the plan adopted for the three first periods only had been put into execution, but its success was fully adequate to the expectations of the legislator, and promised to confer the most lasting benefits on the youth themselves and their posterity.

" After two probationary months, I was admitted a member of the settlement of Anachoropolis, and allowed to participate in all their avocations of business

and pleasure. The misfortunes I had undergone, procured me the esteem of the aged, and the admiration of the young. Often at evening, when the duties of the day were completed, a party would gather round me, to hear the story of my adventures, or enquire after the manners of Europe. The young would shudder at the vices of the civilized portion of the globe, and be thankful that fortune had placed them beyond the reach of their baneful influence. They were wont to execrate the land that assumed the proud title of their mother-country ; but their parents would remind them, that England produced a Shakspeare and a Milton, a Newton and a Locke.

"In this delightful retreat, undisturbed by the cares, the troubles, or anxieties

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of life, I spent two years of perfect happiness. I was content with my situation, and had scarce any desire to return to Europe, or again to visit the busy world. The rest of the settlement, did not, however, entertain the same sentiments. Many of them had left relations in various parts of America, whose absence they lamented, or whose safety they wished to be assured of. They were anxious to learn the events of the war, as they had received no intelligence since the arrival of my master; and at that period, liberty seemed almost triumphant. They were also desirous to establish a channel of communication between Anachoropolis and New York, for they began to be in want of many of those conveniencies, which custom has ranked among the necessities of life.

“These considerations induced one of the elders to propose, that six young men should be appointed to make a journey to New York, and there remain until they had completed the object of their mission. ‘The colony,’ he said, ‘possessed money sufficient to ensure the success of this undertaking;’ and added, ‘that many individuals had left property behind them, which, if it had escaped the ravages of war, might be converted to answer the general good.’ This proposal met with universal approbation; and in a short time it was agreed upon, that I, accompanied by five others, should prepare for the intended journey. We had it, however, at our option, either to accept or reject the commission; but as it was looked upon as a post of distinction, we all cheerfully offered our services.

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“The preparations for our journey were soon completed, and I departed from Anachoropolis, with the most poignant regret. The many happy weeks and days I had spent in its peaceful bosom, crowded upon my mind, and inspired me with awful presages of my future fortune. My companions endeavoured to remove my melancholy. They represented in forcible terms, that I ought to sacrifice my inclination to the public convenience; and added, that though they were sensible of the hardships and difficulties of the task they had undertaken, still the consideration that they acted for the public good, mitigated the severity of their labour, and encouraged them to persist.

“Such were the arguments of my colleagues, which restored the serenity of my mind.—I shall pass over the occurrences
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of our journey. Let it suffice to say, we arrived safe at New York, and immediately set about accomplishing the object of our mission. We found the freedom of the Thirteen United States established by the valour of their citizens, and their independence acknowledged by all the powers of Europe. Commerce was restored to the merchant, and the farmer again reaped his corn in safety. No longer were the shrill fife and marshal drum heard in the streets of New York, nor did the sound of artillery disturb the solemn silence of the night. The artisan and mechanic had quitted the trade of war, and resumed their peaceful occupations: and the navigator, fearless of an enemy, cheerfully ploughed the trackless ocean.

“ Amidst these delightful scenes, which

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the return of peace presented to my mind, my happiness was not without an alloy. I reflected that my parents, in England, might, perhaps, number me with the dead; that that consideration might imbitter the afflictions of old age, and "bring down their grey hairs with sorrow to the grave." Each succeeding week they might expect to hear some tidings of their son, to confirm their hopes or fears, and each succeeding week would bring sorrow and disappointment. Did they deserve this from him who owed his life to their care, whom they reared with tender love and affection, and whose absence they undoubtedly deplored? These were the thoughts that invaded my pillow, that haunted my midnight meditations, and diffused a gloom over my whole conduct. My colleagues remarked the gloom that preyed upon my mind,

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and were assiduous to discover the cause from whence it originated. Sometimes they imagined I was unhappy on account of my absence from Anachoropolis, and at other times, they thought I had formed some connection in New York, which made me unwilling to return with them. Their importunity, and the sollicitude they expressed for my welfare, at length extorted the secret from me. I confessed I was anxious to visit my parents, to comfort them in their old age, and, if they needed my assistance, to labour for them. My colleagues applauded my filial affection, and in strong terms recommended me immediately to put my purpose into execution. They suggested that I might return to Anachoropolis, after I had discharged the duty of a son; and to assist me to perform my journey, they presented me

me with two hundred dollars from their own property.

“ This donation confirmed my resolution ; and in a few days I embarked for England. On my arrival, I repaired, with all speed, to my native village. My father and mother were still living ; and, what greatly added to my happiness, in easy circumstances. But, alas ! that happiness was of no long duration. The joy they felt, at seeing me alive after so long an absence, was too powerful for them to bear ; and from my first coming, I observed them to decline apace. To be brief, I closed the eyes of both my parents ; and after settling all affairs between the world and them, I found myself possessed of seven hundred pounds. With this sum, I am determined to revisit my beloved Anachoropolis, and there spend

spend the remainder of my days, in a manner most congenial to my wishes. Europe presents no charms to detain me: her vices I detest, and her luxuries and arts I disdain. I long to visit my regretted savanna, or wander amongst the venerable oaks and pines, where peace and solitude hold undisturbed dominion. My heart has lost its relish for the gay scenes of the busy world. I had once a zest for the Circean cup of pleasure, but disappointment was mingled with the draught, and I have drank to satiety."

POSTSCRIPT.

POSTSCRIPT.

SUCH was the tale my friend Monthermer related. His intention of leaving England, made a deep impression on my mind, and I communicated to him my design of visiting France.

“Have you,” said he, in an earnest tone, “no connections in England, to whom you are desirous of returning?—Are there none to whom your stay is a source of felicity and comfort; whose lonely hours you cheer, or whose sorrows and afflictions you mitigate?—Are you valued and respected by none?—Will none lament your absence, and shed a tear over a friendship that is about to be broken for ever?”

“Alas!”

"Alas!" answered I, "the world is to
 me a vacuum, a wide extensive waste,
 and I a lonely, solitary traveller. I have
 endeavoured to rear the flower of friend-
 ship, to sweeten and meliorate the rugged
 path of life: but death has cropped the
 budding flower, and annihilated it ere it
 bloomed. Should death level his shafts
 at my heart, none will deplore my loss,
 not a tear will water the grave that covers
 my remains. Oh, Monthermer! Why am
 I doomed to live without life's comforts?
 —Why am I compelled to exist amidst
 affliction and want—amidst poverty and
 distress? Like the defenceless hare, I
 am persecuted by a number of foes, and
 have to struggle against a multitude of
 oppressors. But I am almost wearied of
 the conflict, and must seek a more hospi-
 table land, where content and homely
 fare

fare may bless my little board—where I may be secured from indigence and need—and where untainted peace of mind shall smoothe the furrows of old age.”

“ Then, my friend,” rejoined Monthermer, “ you shall accompany me to my transatlantic retreat. Our friendship will there be cemented by years of peaceful retirement; and mutual consolation shall soften our mutual misfortunes. In my beloved retreat, you will see Nature in her wild, majestic attire: free from the gorgeous decorations of art and society, she will display to your view her captivating charms; and whilst you admire, you will be taught to venerate—whilst you love, you will be taught to esteem. There, my friend, the evening
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of our days may, like the evening of a summer's day, be pregnant with delight and happiness; and in the wane of life, not a cloud of sorrow shall obstruct the sunshine of our prosperity."

It is now three weeks since I have agreed to accompany Monthermer to Anachoropolis. Every thing is ready for our departure, and my heart sanguinely anticipates the success of our undertaking. The hours that were wont to be lonely and tiresome to me, now fly rapidly away on the wings of expectation, and the bright morn of each succeeding day, brings me nearer to the period of my departure. Poverty and her heart-chilling train, are now banished from my presence, and the necessaries of life are no longer numbered among my wants.

I bid

I bid adieu to distress and despair, and encourage the pleasing hope, that the remainder of my life may be spent in the enjoyment of ease and tranquillity.

THE END.